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AGRENOR 2



Argentina prepares: infantry parading at the mainland base of Comodoro Rivadavia

THE SUNDAY TIMES, 25 APRIL 1982

WAR IN THE FALKLANDS 2

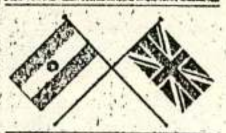
THE REALITIES OF WAR





The bases Britain might bomb and (right) South Georgia, ripe for invasion.

would be bound to cause political and diplomatic repercussions. And we know that by last Wednesday the idea of bombing the Argentinian mainland was no longer at the top of the war cabinet's agenda. A negotiated peace—which all but a handful of Tory MPs now desperately wanted—was to be given a last chance.



A last chance for peace

ON THURSDAY morning, Francis Pym flew to Washington for what was essentially a marathon editing exercise. He and the US secretary of state, Alexander Haig, tabled all the documents and formulae put forward in London, Washington and Buenos Aires in the hope of cooling the crisis and tried, by "taking out the worst of the horrors", to produce a compromise that both the Commons and the junta could live with.

The 36-hour visit reached its climax at Friday's British residence lunch. Coffee cups ashtrays were pushed aside for an impromptu "round table" that went on until 4.10 pm, when the final version emerged. As Pym gloomily observed: "A very thorough examination of the problems must, I suppose, be a form of progress."

He flew back yesterday with a cobbled-together document that falls far short of [illegible] minimum require[illegible] [sp]elled out in W[illegible] Commons debate[illegible]l, however, on the table. Asked in Washington whether the deal had been sufficiently "deloused," a British official said succinctly: "No".

Pym's brief in Washington was twofold: to leave Haig in no doubt that the Argentinian plan was wholly unacceptable; and to stress that, unless it could be significantly improved, there was no alternative to some use of force. But a third motive for the trip was to show Britain's readiness, before that drastic step, to turn every possible diplomatic stone.

One important new phrase and one symbolic concession make up the advances, such as they are. Britain is now ready to substitute "an identifiably British administration" for its earlier demand of an unconditional return to the *status quo ante*. And on the emotive question of flags, London is now prepared to live with several banners, including the Argentinian, rather than insisting that only the Union Jack may fly over the islands. But on the crucial question of sovereignty — which we will discuss but not concede in advance—there has been no useful progress.

Publicly, the hasty trip was a success. Pym was beseiged by reporters; lost no chance to repeat that "Britain will not shrink from the use of force if necessary, and it would be no service to peace to pretend otherwise"; and won general applause—plus a blossoming of pro-British lapel badges. The problem was with Haig and the increasingly volatile Argentinians with whom Washington keeps in constant touch. The British came away glumly convinced that any package agreed in the US would be rejected in Buenos Aires within minutes.

In a moment of exasperation, Pym summed up his dilemma: "I would like to find new pressures, if I could think of any." Within hours he was flying back to London, acutely conscious that any new pressure now is likely to have high explosive attached. By the time he reached Heathrow the British view had crystallized as: "The end of the negotiating road has not been reached, but it is a question of days rather than weeks."

One strong incentive for a speedy solution is the impact of military action on international opinion. Predicting this is hazardous.

In the US last week, few people, even in Congress, had lifted their eyes from the complexity of the Reagan budget to contemplate the repercussions of a war in the South Atlantic.

Haig (and indeed Reagan) might well welcome some form of swift, surgical action. The state department has been heard to wonder aloud whether Britain's real hang-up, as the task force sailed south, might not be sovereignty but willingness to strike.

A bloodless recapture of South Georgia, or the scientific removal of some of Argentina's advanced aircraft might also concentrate minds, without being too painful, even in some Latin American countries. All, like the US itself, are ostensibly allies of Argentina through the Organisation of American States, and often as co-signatories of the Rio Treaty. But unless there was a real bloodbath—say an inadvertent bomb on a hospital or an orphanage—they would probably not move too swiftly from rhetoric to military support.

Timing is of great importance. If there is any idea, for instance, of attacking South Georgia tomorrow, it should be remembered that the foreign ministers of the Rio Treaty countries, with Argentina as their chairman, are due to meet in Washington tomorrow.

No-one expects, at this stage, more than a series of airy speeches. But that could change dramatically if an Associated Press m[illegible]ge should land in the [illegible]le of their conferen[illegible]le saying "British [illegible]es take out Grytviken."

War in the Falklands: Ashore Are Guards and Gurkhas From the QE2

ARGENTINE PAPERS REPORT SHIP RAID

Military Avoiding Confirmation — the British Flatly Deny a Carrier Was Damaged

By RICHARD J. MEISLIN
Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 31 — A day after reports of the bombardment of the 16,000-ton British aircraft carrier Invincible began to circulate, Argentina's newspapers were reporting the assault as determinedly as the military high command was avoiding either directly confirming or denying it.

British officials, while acknowledging that Argentine warplanes had attacked the fleet, flatly denied reports that the Invincible had been damaged.

It thus remained unclear today whether the Invincible had been hit and, if so, how badly it was damaged.

"The Invincible Was Seriously Damaged," pronounced the headline in the tabloid Clarín, Argentina's largest-circulation daily newspaper.

"The Invincible Out of Combat," declared the front page of Convicción, a paper with close ties to the navy.

The Argentine high command had said neither of these things. Its final communiqué Sunday night was worded with caution, attributing all knowledge of damage caused to the British fleet — including the type of ship involved — to pilots of its A-4C bombers. Nor did it give the name of the ship that was reportedly involved.

Conflicting Reports Avoided

While the military command would not confirm that the Invincible had been hit, it was equally careful not to say anything that would conflict with reports issued earlier in the day by Telam, the Government-owned press agency, or Noticias Argentinas, a privately-owned news agency.

Telam occupies a unique place in the transmission of news here. As the Government's outlet, it is the conduit for all official pronouncements from the Government and the military high command.

At the same time, it provides unofficial reports of its own, often attributed to "relevant sources" or "military sources."

It was in one of these unofficial reports that the account of the attack on the Invincible began. At 6:30 P.M., Telam issued a brief story quoting "naval sources" in Port Belgrano as saying that Super Etendards of the naval air force had attacked the Invincible and that it had been "hit by an Exocet missile."

The Invincible 'No Longer Is'

This report, quickly picked up by Noticias Argentinas and the independent station Radio Rivadavia, was "confirmed" 10 minutes later by "a high military source" in another Telam report.

A short time later, José Gómez Fuentes, the anchorman for state-owned Argentine Color Television, expanded on the theme. He opened his evening newscast by saying, "The Invincible, which no longer is, is listing and burning in the South Atlantic."

As word of the attack rippled through the foreign press corps based at a hotel here, press representatives of the military high command took the unusual step of alerting reporters that a major communiqué, to be followed by an equally unusual briefing, would take place in the hotel.

Captain Enrique De León, the command's press liaison, read three communiqués. One told of the loss of Port Darwin and Goose Green, in the Government's first acknowledgment that they had fallen, and said that the British had bombarded Port Stanley but were repelled by Argentine forces.

2 Jets Reported Downed

The second said that two Harrier jump jets had been downed and a third damged in the action.

The third communiqu[illegible] at at 2:30 P.M., Super F[illegible] from the Argentine na[illegible] A-4 bombers from the air force [illegible]tacked the "nucleus of the British fleet," producing "damages that are in the process of evaluation."

To the inevitable question of whether the Invincible had been hit, Captain De León said, "There exists evidence that is in the ultimate phase of evaluation dealing with the aircraft carrier Invincible."

Several English-speaking journalists were skeptical, recalling the repeated reports of damage to the British carrier Hermes, which persisted for days early this month without official confirmation. The Hermes was, finally, conspicuously absent from a list of crippled British craft issued by the Argentine Government last week.

Communiqué Issued Later

Others were more receptive: "No, no, when the junta says this," argued one French journalist, "there is an 80 percent chance that the Invincible is hit."

It was about three hours later that the military command issued its final report for the night, explaining that an unnamed ship "identified as an aircraft carrier by the pilots of the A4-C planes that attacked it with bombs," was said by the pilots to have "dense columns of smoke and fires on board." The operation, the high command added, showed "the high professionalism of our pilots and the capacity of our forces to conduct operations jointly."

That led La Nación, a newspaper with close ties to the Government, to be more cautious than other newspapers this morning, relying on the Spanish conditional tense to temper its report. "The Invincible May Have Been Gravely Damaged by an Exocet," its headline said, over a story that began:

"The news that the British aircraft carrier Invincible may have been seriously damaged by an Argentine air attack jolted public opinion yesterday."



Associated Press

Sergei R. Striganov, Soviet Ambassador to Argentina, as he left meeting with President Leopoldo Galtieri in Buenos Aires. Mr. Striganov said the Soviet Union was helping Argentina "politically and diplomatically" at the U.N.

Prince Andrew's Role In Falklands an Issue

LONDON, May 31 (Reuters) — Tam Dalyell, a Labor member of Parliament from Scotland, urged Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today to consider withdrawing Queen Elizabeth's son, Prince Andrew, from the task force in the Falkland Islands.

"Andrew's presence is exceedingly unfortunate since it gives credence to the notion of European princel[illegible] coming to subdue emergi[illegible]" Mr. Dalyell said in a tele[illegible] the Prime Minister's office.

Air Strikes by Argentines On Ships and Troops Fade

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 31 — Argentina's bombing offensive against British forces on and around East Falkland Island is slackening in weight and tempo, according to British officials. The officials said that attacks on the aircraft carrier battle group had failed to inflict any serious damage and that the rapid advance of British forces following the northern route to Stanley had been free from air attack.

Military Analysis

The marked reduction in the strength of Argentine air operations would be a turning point in the campaign, British and neutral analysts said. Since Saturday they have expected a series of heavy raids on the British fleet, especially the two carriers and the two assault craft, and repeated strafing and bombing attacks on the ground forces.

The "last gasp" nature of the Argentine attacks was characterized by the use of a C-130 transport as a bomber, according to British reports. The aircraft appeared above ships and the crew pushed bombs out of its rear door.

Best Pilots May Be Lost

British intelligence officers who from the outset have praised the daring of Argentine pilots said they had noted a gradual reduction in the enemy's willingness to brave the screen of missiles and bullets to make attacks. If their assessment is correct, the Argentine Air Force has lost its best pilots as well as a high proportion of its best aircraft, Mirage III's and A-4 Skyhawks.

These sources concede the possibility of a final offensive by the remaining bombers against the fleet and the ground forces. But they are confident that the task force has enough Harriers operating from new bases on East Falkland Island and from the carriers and sufficient Rapier and Blowpipe missiles with the two columns moving on Stanley to prevent a serious dislocation of British operations.

A revealing fact about the present strength of the Argentine Air Force is the testimony of two captured pilots. According to British sources, they said that on returning to their mainland bases and finding the number of aircraft greatly reduced they had been told by senior officers that the rest of their squadron had been diverted to another airfield.

Senior officers of the Royal Air Force recalled that Luftwaffe commanders during the Battle of Britain in 1940 used the same excuse to hide losses from returning air crew.

The British position on the ground became more favorable today. But senior officials in the Ministry of Defense cautioned that the advancing commandos and parachute troops had not yet made contact with the main Argentine forces defending Stanley.

Intelligence estimates on their number vary from 5,000 to 7,500 but all estimates agree that there is a hard core of professional troops well equipped with artillery, mortars and some armored vehicles, including French AMX-13 tanks. The rest of the garrison is believed to be made up of conscripts of "moderate" effectiveness.

These troops will now have to face a concerted attack from the two British columns believed to have linked up on 1,500-foot Mount Kent, about 15 air miles northwest of Stanley. The joining of the two forces, one approaching from the southwest and the other from the northeast, concluded an advance of almost parade ground precision. Installed on Mount Kent, the British will be able to direct artillery fire on the Argentine positions around the capital. The infantry also will be able to call in air strikes against any Argentine troops moving out of Stanley to attack.

New Landing Is Reported

The gravity of the British threat grew with reports that the Fifth Brigade — battalions of the Scots and Welsh Guards and the Seventh Gurkha Rifles — also had landed north of Stanley. These soldiers sailed from Southampton this month on the Queen Elizabeth 2. Their entry into the battle raises British combat strength to about 7,500 men, which probably equals the number of Argentine troops in the Stanley garrison.

Rear Adm. John Woodward, the task force commander, apparently committed the brigade as a consequence of two related developments: the linkup of the two columns and the realization that, if the battle for Stanley was to be fought and won quickly, additional strength was needed. Unless there was a complete collapse of the garrison, three marine commandos, two parachute battalions and some light tanks and armored cars would not have sufficed to storm the position. British sources say that even continued bombings and strafing by Harriers and shelling from the fleet will not alone be enough to drive good troops out of strong positions.

The British cannot answer one of the basic questions about the garrison: the level of ammunition remaining. The antiaircraft guns have been active, but little field gun ammunition has been expended and that only in desultory and ineffective fire against British warships. Qualified sources estimate that the Argentine garrison has enough artillery ammunition remaining to fight the Royal Artillery's 105-millimeter guns, landed last week, on even terms.

Under the conditions of modern war, any shortage of field guns should be made up by the Harriers and helicopter gunships. But a spell of bad weather could reduce the effectiver[illegible] these and leave the British artill[illegible]ight a duel against numerically [illegible]r Argentine batteries.

STANLEY: British Attack Near Capital

Continued from First Page

to the Goose Green Darwin area, which was captured Friday and Saturday in bitter fighting in which 600 British paratroopers defeated and took prisoner 1,400 Argentines. The British raised the number of their own dead in the Darwin fighting to 17 Monday.

Moore would be in charge of the ground operations once the Fifth Infantry Brigade was ashore, as the reports late Monday said had happened.

The 7,000 Argentine troops defending the Stanley area are outnumbered by the British attackers, if the Fifth Infantry Brigade has landed.

The Argentine garrison under the command of Gen. Mario Benjamin Menendez is thought to have about 1,000 tough Argentine marines, but unseasoned conscripts make up the bulk of the force.

36-Hour March

In a dispatch from Teal Inlet, which the British column captured in its march on Stanley, reporter Derek Hudson said: "The paras (paratroopers) are moving up for the kill, closing on Stanley after spearheading a dash across the rugged hinterland of the island."

Hudson's report said the 3rd battalion of the Parachute Regiment and royal marines slogged for 36 hours across "inhospitable terrain" to reach Teal Inlet's 20 people and 22,000 sheep.

"They forded two rivers, waist high in freezing conditions, splashed through dozens of streams and trudged through strength-sapping marshes," he said.

"Several casualties were evacuated suffering from exposure or foot injuries."

Ian Bruce of the Glasgow Herald, reporting from Douglas, the second inhabited spot captured by the column, said Argentine troops were evacuated by helicopter two days before the British troops arrived.

As Britain's ground troops closed in on the capital from the west, its planes pounded the airfield again. "A number" of Argentine light aircraft were damaged, the Defense Ministry said.

The ministry again denied that an Argentine air attack Sunday had damaged the carrier Invincible, despite renewed claims from Buenos Aires.

Argentine officials, including Basilio Lami Dozo, the air force commander, insisted publicly that the carrier had been crippled by bombs and missiles. Pilots reported seeing "great smoke, flames and explosions" from the Invincible after it was hit by a powerful Exocet missile and at least four 500-pound bombs, Lami Dozo said.

The British did confirm that the merchant ship Atlantic Conveyor, hit by an Exocet in heavy Argentine air raids last week, had sunk.

Argentine military sources told Times correspondent Kenneth Freed in Buenos Aires that air attacks were carried out throughout Monday against British targets stretching from the original beachhead at San Carlos Bay on the west coast of the main island all along the columns advancing toward Stanley.

The Argentine military sources told The Times there had been little fighting on the ground Monday since the Argentine troops had been pulled inside the Stanley defense entrenchments, which run in a rough semicircle out from the town to a distance of about 12 miles. There was no official confirmation of fighting at Mt. Kent.

'Decisive Battle Developing'

The privately owned Argentine news agency DYN reported, however: "What is certain is that the decisive battle for possession of the island territories is now developing and its result could determine the future of the Anglo-Argentine conflict."

With the British advancing on Stanley, the government in Buenos Aires made at least a symbolic gesture to underline a threat to draw nearer to the Soviet Union.

President Gen. Leopoldo F. Galtieri invited Sergei Striganov, Moscow's ambassador to Buenos Aires, to the presidential palace for a private, but well publicized meeting.

The session was arranged directly between the two men without the Argentine foreign ministry being informed, correspondent Freed reported. After the 40-minute talk, Striganov told reporters that "I expressed the sympathy of the Soviet Union" for the Argentine situation.



United Press International

Some of the first Britons wounded in the Falklands arriving Thursday at Brize Norton, England. Most were from the destroyer Sheffield, sunk May 4.

Shelling of Stanley: Most Terrifying Kind of Attack

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 4 — The British ground, sea and air forces around Stanley, the last Argentine stronghold on East Falkland, have subjected the garrison to prolonged bombardment by field artillery, naval guns and bombers.

Military Analysis

This kind of attack, military analysts said, is one of the most terrifying and the one most likely to sap the defenders' will to resist.

Three factors worsen the Argentines' plight. The first is that the ground troops have meager means to respond. Fire against the destroyers and frigates of the British fleet is likely to be ineffective. These ships reach their positions after nightfall and move constantly. Without air observation, the Argentine gunners are at a serious disadvantage.

Little Protection Available

The British guns in the hills overlooking Stanley have limited mobility. But they benefit from forward observation posts set up in positions from which Argentine infantrymen have withdrawn. Any Argentine guns that open fire on the British artillery can be brought immediately under heavy fire from those in the hills. The Argentines have no forward observation posts.

Meager protection is the third factor. Wood, which was used to protect shelters in the two world wars, in Korea and in Vietnam, is not available in the Falklands. Consequently the defenders must rely on earthworks that disintegrate under the impact of shells or bombs. Because the water table on the islands is so high, the Argentine troops cannot dig foxholes deep enough to protect them from bombardment.

The retirement of the garrison from its forward positions to a horseshoe-shaped formation around Stanley has eased the task of British gunners and bombardiers. Fire is concentrated around the clock on a limited number of targets.

Sustained bombing by the Argentine Air Force appears to be the only available antidote to the British bombardment. Attacks on the fleet and on field artillery, however, would have to be carried out in daylight. The air force, depleted in earlier battles, would have to overcome the Harrier jets, which control the air over the battlefield, and the Rapier and Blowpipe antiaircraft missiles of the British ground forces.

Some analysts believe, however, that despite these risks the Argentine Air Force will make a desperate effort to knock out the British field guns. They regard an attack on the destroyers and frigates, which shell at night, as far less likely.

Reported Short of Supplies

Non-British military experts say Brig. Gen. Mario Benjamín Menéndez, the Argentine commander, erred in pulling back his forward positions. One reason may have been a shortage of supplies. Reports reaching London say some of the forward observation posts overrun by British marines and paratroops lacked food, water and even radios for communication with the garrison's artillery.

In view of the British superiority in guns and in the air, many analysts discount the idea of a land attack by the British ground forces on the Stanley position. But, it was pointed out, Maj. Gen. Jeremy Moore, who is directing the ground forces, could be influenced by the plight of about 400 Falkland islanders caught in the capital.

Should the British launch a ground attack, they are in a much better position logistically than they were earlier this week, when the first advance units of marines and paratroopers probed the hills overlooking Stanley. Milan antitank missiles, artillery ammunition and some tanks have been moved forward. Ammunition and fuel depots have been expanded and antiaircraft protection increased. The troops around the capital are now getting two hot meals a day, officials said. Clothing is being issued to replace that worn out on the march across East Falkland Island.

Superior Mobility Gained

Sea King helicopters from the fleet are being used to bring reinforcements forward to the battle zone. Their presence gives the besiegers superior mobility to meet any Argentine sortie against the British lines.

Senior officials in London appear unconcerned about any Argentine attack. Their confidence grows out of earlier successes, when the British attackers were outnumbered, and the firepower now available. They also stress the difficulty of mounting a major Argentine counterattack over the terrain separating the two forces: "Uphill all the way," was how one officer described it.

A British sweep Thursday across the slopes leading down to Stanley did nothing to shake this confidence. Intelligence sources reported that the sweep had brought in a few stragglers from an Argentine infantry company that had been sent forward earlier in the week.

British Commandos Begin Attacks on Stanley's Outer Defenses

BRITAIN, From A1

the hills nearer to Stanley have been captured, he said, British commanders would have several options for retaking the capital.

The news blackout here is designed to keep the Argentine defenders guessing about those options, including possible landings from the sea, the source said. He noted that nothing has been said publicly about the more than 3,000 Welsh and Scots Guards and Gurkhas who were reportedly transferred from the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2 to landing craft in the South Atlantic several days ago.

Other sources suggested these troops already have been landed at the original British beachhead at San Carlos, about 50 miles west of Stanley. Their reinforcement of the British ground base there would free any troops remaining from the original landing group of 4,000 to 5,000 Marines, paratroopers and support troops to cross East Falkland Island for the final assault.

Argentine reports that the Stanley garrison had been reinforced this week with as many as 2,000 troops flown in from the mainland were dismissed by officials in London. "That's what we call Invincible information," said one source, referring to repeated Argentine media claims that the British aircraft carrier Invincible has been hit or sunk.

In dispatches reaching London today, the British correspondents described how the commandos they accompanied had flown by helicopter from San Carlos to the Mount Kent forward base. Larger forces of Marines and paratroopers have been advancing to the base on the ground after capturing Darwin and Goose Green to the south and Douglas and Teal Inlet settlements to the north.

Military sources here said British operations likely would begin with observation and reconnaissance forays of Argentine positions around Stanley, followed by shelling from both land artillery and warships in the British task force. The commandos' task subsequently would be to pinpoint and attack Argentine frontline posts on the hills between Mount Kent and the capital. Under one potential plan of attack, the main British forces could then move up behind the commandos, the sources said.

"The mission is to harass and probe enemy positions until we know his exact strength and whereabouts. I am not going to blunder into a hornet's nest for lack of preparation," the senior commanding officer of the Marine commandos was quoted as telling other officers during a Wednesday night briefing at an undisclosed staging area five miles from Stanley.

"When we are sure, we will go forward and take out those positions," he said, according to a dispatch from Glasgow Herald correspondent Ian Bruce. "The men will move into action in basic fighting order, carrying bullets, beans and water. Packs will follow later. Be prepared for enemy artillery bombardment."

Dispatches from the correspondents reported steady movement of men and equipment by ground and air toward the British-occupied high ground west of Stanley. The foggy, cold and wet weather now prevailing in the Falklands was described here as both an asset and a liability for the British.

"It helps because it enables things to be done under cloud cover," said one military source. There have been no reported attacks by mainland-based Argentine warplanes on the British forces for days.

"But it can also hurt," the source added, "if the cloud cover is so low that it hampers helicopter movement." He noted that the rain, cold and snow is uncomfortable for troops on both sides.

Senior Defense Ministry officials said here today that they did not expect the Argentine forces to surrender without at least some fighting. They said about 250 Falklands residents are believed to be still in Stanley.

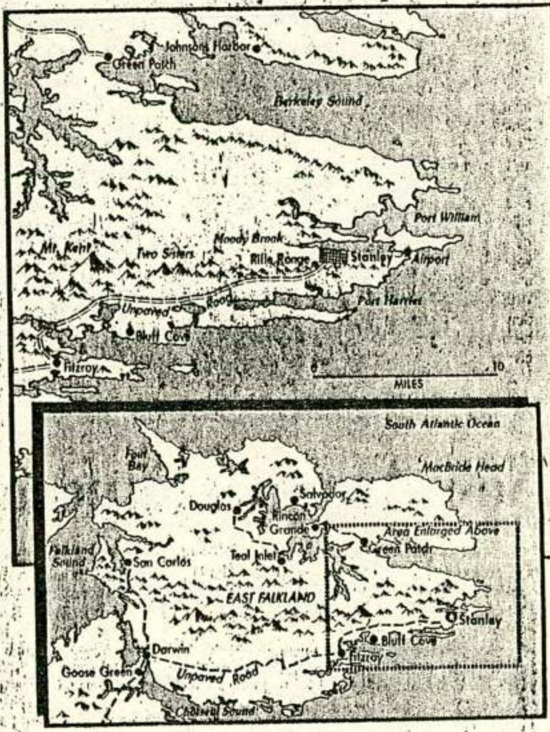
Much of East Falkland now appears to be under effective British control, and officials here say about 200 Argentine stragglers have surrendered in recent days to the British forces who captured Darwin and Goose Green nearly a week ago. The number of Argentine prisoners taken there has grown to more than 1,600, according to these officials.

Defense officials in London said they still were concerned that Argentina might try again to attack a major British target away from Stanley. They cited Britain's two carriers and the main British ground base at San Carlos as potential targets of an all-out air strike or the German-built Argentine submarine still believed to be lurking around the Falklands.

The Argentine garrison around Stanley was still well-armed with heavy artillery and antiaircraft weaponry, officials here said. But they believed that the Argentine forces had few helicopters or usable planes left at Stanley.

In a confidential briefing today for British defense correspondents, a senior Defense Ministry official also expressed concern that Argentina may be obtaining sophisticated replacement weapons, including air-to-sea missiles that could menace British ships, from countries the official refused to identify. The official said the weaponry obtained may include antiship missiles that could be fired by Argentina's Mirage fighter-bombers.

The official said this could enable Argentina to continue dangerous hit-and-run air attacks on British ships even after the Falklands are recaptured.



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

Argentines Say Sanctions

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Efficiency 503 square feet	$39.74	fr. $19,990	fr. $1,090	$379	$281

Sunday, June 6, 1982

Britain Lands Fresh Troops, Dispatch Says

By Jay Ross
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, June 5—Britain has landed more than 3,000 additional troops on East Falkland Island in preparation for a final assault on the Argentine military garrison at Stanley, according to a dispatch filed today by a British journalist in the war zone.

The report, which apparently slipped through British military censorship and was ordered suppressed within an hour after release, followed another dispatch in which Britain's ground force commander told reporters that his attack plans were proceeding on schedule. But as of tonight it was unclear whether fighting for the Falklands capital had begun.

[In Buenos Aires, military spokesmen claimed Argentine forces had "intensely bombed" British positions on the outskirts of Stanley, the last remaining stronghold for Argentine troops, Washington Post correspondent Margot Hornblower reported. Sources said the Argentine forces had been resupplied by air from the mainland and were prepared to resist a final British assault.]

[Meanwhile, a conference of nonaligned nations in Havana gave preliminary approval yesterday to a resolution "deploring" British military action in the South Atlantic and demanding an immediate end of U.S. support for Britain. Argentina hailed the statement as a "victory" although the resolution's language was toned down before passage.]

The report of the troop landing, filed by Jeremy Hands, correspondent for Britain's Independent Television News, said the forces had landed at an undisclosed location, "consolidated ashore and are moving rapidly into positions close to Stanley."

But before the story could be broadcast, the British Defense Ministry put out a request to editors that the information be suppressed. The request went out 45 minutes after the dispatch ran on the wire of the Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

The Defense Ministry, which maintained a news blackout on ground fighting for the fifth straight day, has consistently refused to disclose the whereabouts of the reinforcements, despite unconfirmed reports in London that they had landed on the islands. The apparent slip-up in censorship provided the first independent confirmation of the landing from a reporter in the war theater who would be able to see the troops.

The reinforcements, shipped to the South Atlantic aboard the requisitioned cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2, bring Britain's troop strength on the island to at least 8,000, probably at least a match for Argentina's Stanley garrison.

At a news briefing at Darwin, an East Falkland settlement that British troops seized a week ago, the British ground forces commander, Maj. Gen. Jeremy Moore of the Royal Marines, told reporters that Argentine forces have been "squeezed into a little corner around Port Stanley." While he refused to say when his forces would assault the garrison, Moore said, "I am tremendously pleased with the way everything is going. We are not behind in our schedule."

"I will not discuss my timetable for Port Stanley," Moore said. Referring to his Ar-

See FALKLANDS, A26, Col. 4

N. Y. TIMES, de 9 JUN.

War in the Falklands: Details of New Batt

Britons Stage New Landing But the Cost Is Called High

By R. W. APPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 9 — British troops have staged a major new landing in the Falkland Islands but have suffered heavily in the process, correspondents' reports and military sources said tonight.

A sizable force has been established at Fitzroy and at Bluff Cove, 12 miles southwest of Stanley, the Ministry of Defense reported. It said that at least 6 and possibly as many as 11 of the Argentine warplanes involved in trying to disrupt the landing were shot down. They were reportedly intercepted and hit by Harrier jump-jets.

In disclosing sketchy details of the action on Tuesday, the ministry said that the 2,800-ton frigate Plymouth and two 5,674-ton landing ships, the Sir Tristram and the Sir Galahad, had been damaged by enemy bombs, with five British troops suffering wounds.

Much Darker Picture

But a dispatch from Michael Nicholson of Independent Television News, who witnessed one Argentine attack, painted a much darker picture. The Sir Galahad burst into flames, with black smoke pouring from her hold, he said, after ammunition boxes and fuel tanks blew up. He said a large number of British casualties had been incurred, with many men burned, and indicated that the ship had been abandoned.

Another report suggested that the casualties were worse than those suffered in the sinking of the destroyer Sheffield on May 4, in which 20 men were killed and 24 hurt.

Tonight military sources said that the Sir Galahad had probably sunk, and the Defense Ministry confirmed that casualties had been minor in air attacks at Lively Island and in Fálkland Sound but "much heavier" in the raid off Fitzroy. The two landing ships were hit off Fitzroy and the Plymouth was hit in the sound, farther west.

Argentine Assertions Denied

The ministry strenuously denied Argentine assertions that the Plymouth had been sunk.

It was not clear whether the losses would delay the long-awaited attack on Stanley, but senior officers conceded that Tuesday's attack was clear evidence that Britain had not yet established full air superiority. The shortcoming could complicate the battle for the capital, analysts believe.

In a television interview, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said it was "almost impossible" to say when the British attack on Stanley would come. But she added that she hoped the assault on the Falkland capital, where about 7,000 Argentine troops are surrounded by the British, would not be "too distant."

"The time when the military commander moves is up to him," she said. "He is there. He knows the positions. He knows exactly how much he has to move before he makes the final assault. We can't fight a battle around the Cabinet table. He must fight it on the spot."

Mrs. Thatcher repeated her assertion that a quick and honorable surrender of the Argentine garrison could easily be arranged, and that only such a surrender could prevent a battle for Stanley. Despite her past offers, she said, she had seen "no sign whatever" that the enemy commander, Brig. Mario Menéndez, was interested.

In another development, the Defense Ministry said that the American-owned supertanker Hercules, hit by a bomb in the South Atlantic on Tuesday, had been ordered in a radio message moments earlier to head for an Argentine port. If it did not, the message said, "you will be attacked in 15 minutes."

The message, the ministry said, was preceded by the call sign of an Argentine radio station, believed to be in Ushuaia, and was addressed specifically to the Hercules, using her call sign. It was repeated for 13 minutes over an international distress frequency, according to the ministry spokesman, Ian McDonald, and was monitored by the British hospital ships Uganda and Hecla, which were operating at the time in the same area, about 500 miles northeast of the Falklands.

In a telex message to the ship's Italian agents, the 220,117-ton tanker's master said none of his 28 crew members had been hurt. He reported that the ship had been attacked twice and had been "slightly damaged" by a bomb dropped in the first of the attacks from what was described as a high-winged, four-engine, propellor-driven aircraft.

The only planes known to be involved in the Falkland conflict that meet that description are Argentine C-130 transports, one of which dropped a bomb on a British tanker on June 2 without causing much damage.

Information released during the night by the Defense Ministry, amplified by on-the-spot reports today, considerably altered previous assumptions about British troop movements. It had been thought, on the basis of background briefings by military officers here, that most of the Fifth Brigade had arrived in the mountains just west of Stanley.

It had also been thought that the Second Parachute Battalion, which took Darwin and Goose Green, had moved rapidly on to Fitzroy and Bluff Cove, a pair of small settlements on the southern track across the upper part of East Falkland.

In fact, today's developments make clear, most of the 3,500 men of the Fifth Brigade who began coming ashore at San Carlos Bay remained there, with some Gurkha units moving into the interior of the island and others reaching Mount Kent, the forward base near Stanley. Most of the paratroopers remained at Darwin and Goose Green, patrolling.

Late last week, an advance force of the Fifth Brigade moved out along the southern track. Last Saturday, from Swan Inlet, about halfway to the capital, the brigade commander, Brig. Tony Wilson, made a telephone call from a public booth, dropping a British 50-pence coin into the slot. He called a house in Fitzroy as a longshot, and to his astonishment a Falklander named Reg Binney answered. The brigadier asked whether any Argentine troops were there.

"Yes," answered Mr. Binney, "but they're not here today."

"I think I'll join you then," Brigadier Wilson told him.

"That seems a good idea," came the reply. "You'd be welcome."

Vital Bridge Seized

The commander called on helicopters to ferry some of his men from Port San Carlos to Fitzroy. They seized the vital wooden bridge across the Fitzroy River, which had been damaged by retreating Argentines.

Others were flown to Lively Island, south of Choiseul Sound, and loaded there into landing ships for an amphibious invasion near Fitzroy and Goose Green to conserve time. Meanwhile, the Ghurkas, armed with kukri knives as well as rifles, moved along the ridge above the new beachhead, silently attacking enemy observation posts.

It was this operation, not a series of commando raids, as believed then, to which Mr. Nicholson was referring on Monday when he spoke of "extraordinarily daring" activities. And it was this operation that was interrupted by Tuesday's Argentine air raids.

Crisis in the Falklands: London Shifts Strategy for a Strike

British Said to Favor a Direct Assault

Continued From Page 1

dump and 11 planes on Pebble Island, off West Falkland.

Another factor to which importance is being attached, the informant said, is the state of training and morale of the 9,000 Argentine troops on East and West Falkland. About 60 percent are said to be conscripts with less than four months' service, and many of them have not completed their basic training.

The untrained troops, it was noted, were plucked from mainland garrisons and flown to a bleak, inhospitable environment without experience in anything approaching combat conditions. For the last three weeks, they have been subjected to bombing and shelling.

The garrison at Stanley, on East Falkland, is reported to number 5,000. It is said to be dug in around the town and in hills to the west.

When the British bombarded the area, they drew only feeble fire against ships at sea and the carrier-based Harrier planes. The Argentines are believed to be incapable, at this stage, of making a sortie in the open field against attacking forces.

5 Battalions of Professionals

In any British attack, the defenders would be facing at least five battalions of trained professionals, including commando and paratroop units. Two of the battalions, known as the 40 and 42 Commandos, have had Arctic training in northern Norway. The parachute battalions have exercised as infantry in Norway and West Germany.

Given this qualitative advantage, the informant said, British tactics will be to hit hard and quickly after a sharp but not necessarily prolonged bombardment by Harrier jets and helicopter gunships and the 4.5-inch guns of the fleet. This formula was used in earlier, minor landing operations.

There are smaller, outlying garrisons, but the stress appears to be on striking at the Stanley area.

The defenders are believed unlikely to come out of their positions and engage in mobile combat. One reason, the British say, is that the conscripts are probably not competent to fight a maneuver battle against professionals.

Simultaneous Landings Elsewhere

If the garrison remains in its defensive positions, British sources said, it will be subjected to heavy bombardment from the fleet and air force while commandos and paratroops land.

A major attack on Stanley could involve simultaneous landings near Green Patch, 10 miles northwest of Stanley, and Sparrow Cove, five miles northeast of Stanley. An air base could be established at Johnson's Harbor on the north shore of Berkeley Sound.

The establishment of rudimentary bases for the Harriers and gunships is regarded as essential to early success. Rapier antiaircraft missiles would provide cover. The Argentine garrison is said to have Roland missiles, the French version of the Rapier.

The Argentine Air Force is regarded as the biggest threat to the success of any landing, but military sources contend that it is not so grave a threat as it would have been two weeks ago.

French-Made Fighters a Threat

They say this is not because of the Argentines have lost planes, but because the Harriers have been reinforced. Also complicating any Argentine attacks, they say, is that the Rapiers have all-weather radar.

The main threat from the air would come from the five Super-Etendard fighters and the three Exocet missiles the Argentines still have.

One Exocet destroyed the destroyer Sheffield on May 4 when loosed from a Super-Etendard. Argentine and British sources report that, in the same attack, a second Exocet was launched at a second ship. Electronic countermeasures and good ship handling prevented a hit.

Thick clouds blanket the Falkland Islands at the moment and would add to the problems of Argentine air crews, whose navigational abilities, according to British assessments, appear to have been less than professional.

British airmen also consider that, even after a landing, the usefulness of Argentine planes would be limited by distance from home bases. Refueling operations thus far, British sources said, have disclosed that many of the air crews have been only sketchily trained.

The informants said the Argentines' French-built Mirâges, regarded as their best all-around planes, may have no more than five minutes to spend over the Falklands before having to return. To engage the British ground forces, they said, the Argentine planes would have to operate at low altitude and thus burn fuel more rapidly than in their flights from mainland bases.

Naval Attack Was Cut Short

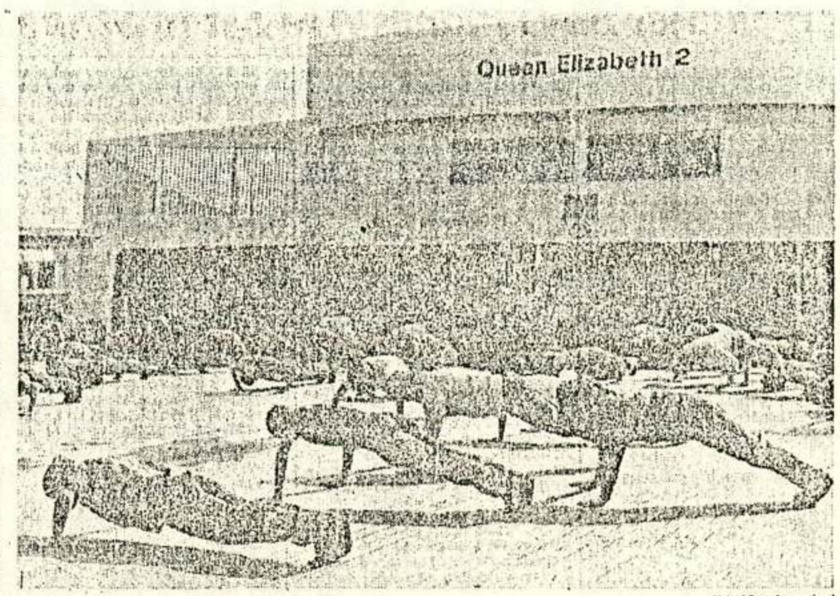
British sources say they doubt that the Argentine fleet would be able to attack the British task force. They say the Argentine naval command is aware of the threat from the British submarines. At least three of them are believed to be near the Argentine coast, with probably one or two closer to the islands.

The only major Argentine naval operation thus far, the informants said, was cut short by the sinking of the cruiser General Belgrano on May 2. The operation had reportedly begun with the fleet putting out to sea to attack the British task force east of the islands.

The General Belgrano and her escorts formed one combat force. The aircraft carrier Veinticinco del Mayo was the center of another group. A third was made up of cruisers and frigates. But the operation ended with the torpedoing of the General Belgrano.

The British appear worried about the two West German-built Argentine submarines. Despite intensive search, they have not been located.

The third Argentine submarine, the American-built Santiago del Estero, has been reported out of action. British sources said she had been used to provide spare parts for a sister ship, the Santa Fe, which was driven ashore by British fire on South Georgia last month.



United Press International

Soldiers of the Scots Guards doing calisthenics on a deck of the Queen Elizabeth 2 as she steamed toward a rendezvous with the British task force off the Falkland Islands. Photo is from the British Government.

73-Day British Campaign Was Won by Infantry, the Oldest Weapon of All

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 17 — Britain's campaign to recover the Falklands, which ended in the victory at Stanley Monday, began in an afternoon of frenzied activity at the Admiralty on April 2.

After the seizure of the islands that morning by Argentine troops, the Government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced that a task force would be assembled and sent to the South Atlantic.

The campaign that occupied the next 73 days included frantic improvisation and meticulous planning. Argentine mistakes and swift British exploitation of them, air and sea battles that stressed the lethality of new weapons and the weakness of old. Ultimately the battle was won not by any of the complicated new arms but by the oldest weapon of all: the infantry.

An 8,000-Mile Journey

The Royal Navy's limited resources were the first to be mobilized for the task of projecting sea power 8,000 miles from home bases. The Invincible, a light aircraft carrier scheduled for sale to Australia, and the Hermes, a larger carrier but a third of a century old, were to form the core of the fleet. Destroyers and frigates were diverted from NATO and other missions. Warships under refitting in ports were hurriedly prepared for sea. Crews were recalled, and ammunition and stores moved aboard.

As it invariably does, the fighting navy turned to the merchant navy for help. Transports had to be found to carry the three battalion-size units of Royal Marines and two battalions of the Parachute Regiment that were all the infantry that the Ministry of Defense could then provide. Other merchantmen became naval minesweepers, tugs or hospital ships. In a burst of activity such as the dockyards have not known since 1945, cargo ships were turned into auxiliary carriers with flight decks hammered into place and guns mounted on the upper works.

The scope and intensity of the war preparations did not hide a major British weakness. The carriers would deploy no more than 20 Harrier jets, the navy's only combat aircraft. An even more important omission was noticed: The fleet had no long-range aircraft equipped with radar to peer over the horizon and detect incoming Argentine planes.

Operation's Daring Realized

The fleet sailed on April 5. As the silhouettes of the warships faded into the haze off the Scilly Islands, British military men began to realize the daring of the operation and to weigh its prospects for success.

Argentina was moving 9,000 troops into East and West Falkland Islands. The British island of South Georgia had been seized. Argentina's submarines were in the southern ocean. Secure in its mainland bases, the Argentine fleet waited.

That fleet was centered on the Veinticinco de Mayo, a large formerly British carrier, and the General Belgrano, a cruiser built in the United States in World War II. Also on mainland bases was an air force of 223 aircraft. The British knew that the Argentine planes did not have the range to remain over the islands for long periods, but they far outnumbered the untried Harriers.

British Impose Blockade

As the fleet steamed southward — it passed Ascencion Island on April 16 — the British established a 200-mile exclusion zone around the islands on April 12 and said they would attack any Argentine warship in the zone. On April 30 the British imposed a total sea and air blockade in the zone. It was believed then that Britain was acting with misplaced confidence.

The first land action of the war was a British commando attack on April 25 that recaptured South Georgia after a two-hour battle. In the process British aircraft crippled one of Argentina's four submarines.

South Georgia had been held by Argentine marines, reputedly the cream of the armed forces. Their short resistance established a pattern of tactical thinking for the British. Simply put, it was: If they stand, hit them with everything you've got and they'll crumble.

At that point, however, the British did not have much. The Fifth Brigade, comprising two battalions of Guards and one of Gurkhas, was sent to Wales for intensive training. The commandos and the paratroops already with the fleet, plus units of the army's Special Air Service and the navy's Special Boat Squadron, were considered highly suitable for hit-and-run raids, but the British land forces were not powerful enough to take on a well-armed force of 9,000 men.

Fifth Brigade Aboard QE2

The Government requisitioned the Queen Elizabeth 2, Britain's largest and fastest liner, putting the Fifth Brigade aboard and sending her south. It was another risk, for the liner was sailing into a war zone that included three enemy submarines as well as the Argentine surface navy.

The air-sea war around the islands intensified. On May 1 the Harriers hit the airfield at Stanley, cratering the runway and shooting down two Argentine planes. Supplementing the Harrier attack was bombing by a four-engined Vulcan flown from Britain via Ascension Island.

On May 2 three divisions of the Argentine Navy set course to attack the task force. One division was grouped around the carrier and another around the General Belgrano, while a third was composed of destroyers and corvettes.

The cruiser division was moving toward the British concentration when the Conqueror, a British nuclear-powered submarine, put two torpedoes into the General Belgrano, sinking her. The other two divisions of the Argentine fleet turned back to the shelter of its mainland bases.



United Press International

A Royal Marine keeping watch as his comrades searched buildings in Stanley for Argentine soldiers as British forces secured the Falkland port. Photograph was released yesterday in London by the Ministry of Defense.

Sheffield Is Wrecked

Lacking long-range radar, the British put destroyers and frigates on picket duty to warn of incoming aircraft and warships. On May 4 one of those picket ships, the destroyer Sheffield, was hit by an Exocet missile fired by an Argentine Super Etendard naval fighter. The Sheffield's aluminum upper works burst into flame, fire control and communications systems failed, and she was abandoned.

The second week of May saw increased British air and naval action. The blockade was extended to 12 miles from the Argentine coast. It was to be enforced primarily by an undisclosed number of British nuclear-powered submarines armed with new Stingray torpedoes.

The air-sea war slowly turned in favor of the British. The Harriers proved themselves superior to the Argentine Mirages and A-4 Skyhawks that made repeated sorties against the ships off the Falklands. Those ships spent four days bombarding the airport at Stanley, the island's capital, and Argentine positions outside the town.

The British first struck on land on May 14. Late that night they landed on Pebble Island to the north of West Falkland. There they destroyed 11 aircraft found on or near a small airstrip.

Landing at Port San Carlos

On May 21 about 1,000 British troops landed at Port San Carlos on the western coast of East Falkland Island. A day later 5,000 troops had set up a beachhead roughly 10 miles square. Only the Argentine Air Force reacted vigorously and successfully, flying through a cloud of missiles and shells that thickened daily. In four days the British lost three major surface ships — the Ardent, the Antelope and the Coventry.

One of the might-have-beens of the campaign is what would have happened had the Argentines attacked the beachhead with infantry and armor at the same time their bombers were hammering the ships. Military analysts here say the Argentines may have been lulled by the earlier hit-and-run raids into thinking that this was another such attack and therefore decided to hold their troops around Stanley to ward off further British forays.

The failure to attack the beachhead enabled the British to launch a powerful land strike. On May 27 the Second Battalion of the Parachute Regiment moved out of the beachhead along the high ground toward Goose Green and Darwin. Goose Green already had been harried by troops of the Special Air Service, and the paratroops found its garrison had been reduced to about 120 men. The bulk of the garrison, 1,500 troops, had moved back to Stanley.

The paratroops struck the next day. There was a brief firefight followed by an Argentine surrender.

Atlantic Conveyor Is Sunk

Although the Argentine Air Force continued its attacks on the fleet and sank the Atlantic Conveyor, a large merchant ship, the emphasis was on the ground war as the British infantry came into its own. Weighed down with heavy packs, the commandos and the paratroops pushed across the rocky or soggy terrain toward Stanley. The troops at Goose Green and Darwin took the southern route, while those moving out of the beachhead went across the northern rim of the island.

The march could not have been accomplished had it not been for helicopter pilots who made trip after trip in forbidding weather to deliver eight tons of fuel and ammunition a day for each battalion, plus four tons of shells for the 105-millimeter guns. Thos guns were already shelling the Argentine forces in the mountains outside Stanley.

Argentina's Air Force scored one more success before the final battle. Units of the Fifth Brigade had taken Fitzroy and Bluff Cove to the southwest of Stanley. On June 8 Argentine bombers caught two landing ships, the Sir Galahad and the Sir Tristram, in Fitzroy Water. The Sir Galahad, packed with Welsh guards, was sunk with severe casualties.

Only Sporadic Resistance

Despite the losses, by last Friday the commandos and paratroops were driving Argentine forces off the hills and mountains that mask Stanley. The Argentines, hammered by shellfire from the artillery and the ships offshore, offered only sporadic resistance. Where they did, the advancing British swept around the knots of resistance and then took them from the rear.

Maj. Gen. Jeremy Moore, the ground commander, had planned his final push in two stages. He would take the outlying hills such as Mount William and Wireless Hill and then pause to consolidate before attacking the so-called Galtieri Line, which was well-fortified and strongly defended.

He did not have to wait. The Gurkhas and the paratroops drove the Argentines off the hills. The Argentines streamed back to the shelter of Stanley, throwing away their arms as they fled.

On Monday the campaign was over.

'Aggresive' British Patrols Probe Argentine Lines Near Stanley

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, June 11—Artillery exchanges and skirmishes between British and Argentine front-line troops continued near the Falkland Islands capital of Stanley today as both sides awaited the final assault by British forces.

While reports from Argentina suggested the attack may be delayed two weeks by heavy British losses suffered from Argentine air attacks earlier this week, the Defense Ministry here said British forces "continued to consolidate positions and move equipment forward" for the decisive battle.

Both sides claimed to have caused small numbers of casualties in what the Defense Ministry here called "aggressive" British patrolling of contested ground between the two front lines, which are less than five miles apart at some points.

A pessimistic message to the Argentine military command in Buenos Aires from the Stanley garrison commander, Brig. Gen. Mario Benjamin Menendez, was monitored in the last 24 hours from Chile, according to a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Punta Arenas, a Chilean city at the southern tip of South America 500 miles west of the Falklands.

Menendez reported a drop in the morale of his troops because of the virtual British siege, BBC correspondent Brian Barron said, quoting Menendez as saying in the intercepted message: "If things go on like this, our situation could crumble rapidly."

Barron, in a dispatch from Punta Arenas broadcast on national television and radio here today, reported that "the dispirited tone of the brief message is a complete reverse of the Argentine commander's exuberant, confident exchanges monitored here a month or more ago."

Independent analysts here said they had no reason to doubt the validity of the report because earlier messages between Stanley and Buenos Aires had been similarly monitored by what Barron called "specialist sources" in southern Chile near major military bases across the border in Argentina.

[In Buenos Aires, the Argentine military command accused British warplanes of firing two missiles at an Argentine hospital ship carrying wounded and a commission from the International Red Cross off shore from Stanley. A communique said the missiles missed the ship, but one struck a house on shore, Washington Post correspondent Jackson Diehl reported.

[The communique said that Argentina had protested the incident through diplomatic channels. A military spokesman also said tonight that a British warship bombarded Stanley at dawn and that two British Harrier warplanes later attacked Arg[illegible] positions at Stanley.]

Meanwhile, British spokesmen continued their refusal to disclose the extent of British casualties in Tuesday's Argentine air raids on landing ships putting ashore Scots and Welsh guards of the Fifth Infantry Brigade at Fitzroy and Bluff Cove, 15 miles southwest of Stanley.

British sources suggested today that more than 50 but less than 100 British troops and seamen were killed when two landing ships, a frigate and a small landing craft were hit by bombs from Argentine Mirage and Skyhawk fighter-bombers. Reports from Buenos Aires have suggested the toll could run into the hundreds.

Political sources here said the final casualty figures may be announced Saturday. But military sources said the commander of the British ground forces on the Falklands, Royal Marine Maj. Gen. Jeremy Moore, specifically requested that the figures be withheld so Argentine commanders would not know what impact the losses might have on the timetable or tactics of the British forces.

The British Defense Ministry said today there have been no further "sustained air attacks" by Argentina since Tuesday, "although the weather was fine and clear" in the Falklands.

"Four Argentinian Mirage aircraft were seen by the [British naval] task force. Two turned back when intercepted, and two flew low and were lost to contact," the ministry said. "No further air engagements took place until yesterday, when four Argentinian Pucras strafed one of our forward positions. There were no British casualties."

This would suggest that Argentine forces somewhere on the Falklands, perhaps on West Falkland, are still able to mount sorties with the low-flying, short-range ground attack planes. The monitored message from Menendez indicated that the Stanley garrison was now sufficiently cut off from air and other contact with the mainland to prevent any supplies or reinforcements from getting in and troops from getting out.

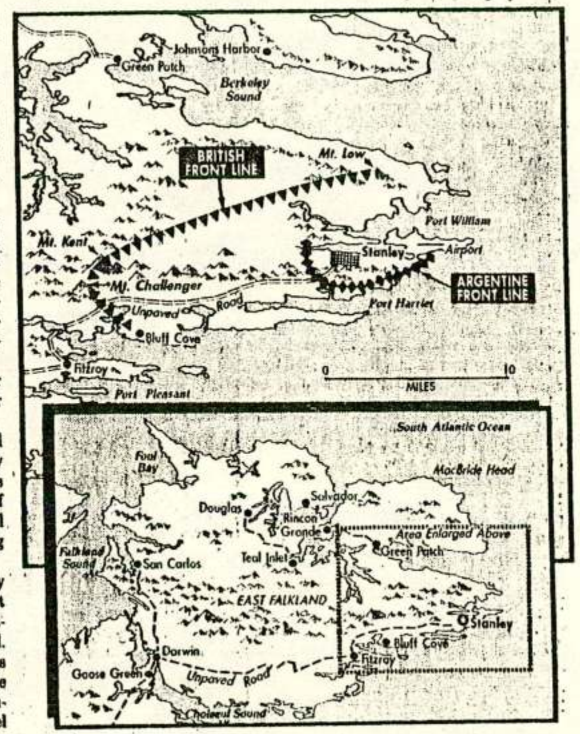
Based on Defense Ministry and British correspondents' reports of military activity on the Falklands through Thursday, the main body of British forces was still being moved with its equipment into position for an assault on Stanley, while patrols of up to 30 Marines or paratroopers continued to probe Argentine front-line positions.

British war correspondents reported that some of these patrols moved to within a few hundred yards of some Argentine positions to observe them without engaging them in battle. When one British patrol clashed with Argentine troops Wednesday, the Defense Ministry said today, "five Argentinians were killed and there were no British casualties."

The Argentine military has claimed that four British soldiers were killed and one taken prisoner in similar encounters.

Two British war correspondents, Leslie Dowd of Reuter and Charles Laurence of the Sunday Telegraph, said in dispatches filed earlier this week that British troops on high ground west of Stanley had become impatient to begin the final assault after a week of wind, rain and freezing temperatures before the weather cleared.

"What has been going on last week is the steady and determined buildup of the largest and most comprehensively equipped assault force that Britain has mustered for 30 years," Laurence reported. "Hundreds of tons of artillery ammunition has been flown up, dangling in cargo nets from the bellies of Sea King and Wessex helicopters, thousands of mortar rounds and steel box after steel box of rifle and machine-gun rounds."



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

Los Angeles Times
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U.S. Declares It Supports Britain

Offers Material Aid to London, Places Sanctions on Argentina

By OSWALD JOHNSTON, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—Dropping its role as neutral mediator in the Falkland Islands crisis, the United States on Friday offered aid to British forces in the South Atlantic and imposed sanctions against Argentina.

President Reagan, addressing a group of editors at midday, drove home the point of the new American stance by putting the blame squarely on Argentina for invading the islands April 2. "I think the principle that all of us must abide by is armed, aggression of that kind must not be allowed to succeed," Regan said.

In a formal statement at the State Department, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. held Argentina accountable for rejecting a U.S. peace proposal that he said the British were prepared to consider. Argentina, he charged, is responsible for bringing the crisis to "a new and dangerous phase in which large-scale military action is likely."

'Failure to Compromise'

"In light of Argentina's failure to accept a compromise," Haig said, "we must take concrete steps to underscore that the United States cannot and will not condone the use of unlawful force to resolve disputes."

Haig went on to declare that the President "has directed that the United States will respond positively to a request for material support for British forces,' adding: "There will of course be no direct U.S. military involvement."

Haig set forth four areas in which sanctions against Argentina are to take immediate effect:

—A suspension of all military exports to Argentina. Despite an arms sale cutoff imposed in 1978 because of Argentine human rights violations, $5.9 million in arms and spare parts are still in the supply pipeline to that nation and will be cut off by Friday's action.

—A decision by Reagan not to certify that Argentina's human rights record has improved enough to make it eligible for renewed military sales. Until the Falklands crisis broke out, improved U.S.-Argentine relations had the Administration leaning toward a waiver of the arms sale ban.

—Suspension of new Export-Import Bank credits and guarantees. Argentina already has more than $1 billion in such credits, and Argentine indebtedness to American private banks is about $9.5 billion. These existing loans are not affected by Friday's action.

Sanctions Called Political

—Suspension of the Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corp. guarantees to Argentina. The action would cancel an unused authorization covering $2 million in export sales of lumber and would block any future CCC credit guarantees.

A senior State Department official, stressing a need for the American public and the international community "to recognize where the responsiblity lies" at this stage in the Falklands crisis, said these sanctions are "political." That is, they are designed to put added pressure on Argentina to change its negotiating posture and return to

Please see SUPPORT, Page 32

Crisis in the Falklands: New Move on Diplomatic Front

U.N. Chief Intensifies Effort To Come Up With Solution

By BERNARD D. NOSSITER
Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 2 — Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar began an intensive diplomatic effort today to find a solution for the conflict over the Falkland Islands.

Until now, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar has held back to avoid interference with the mediation efforts of Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. But the collapse of the Haig mission has brought the United Nations leader to the center of the diplomatic stage.

His aides declined to label Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's labor as mediation. Britain objects to being put on a par with Argentina, whose forces seized the islands and refused to heed a Security Council demand to withdraw.

However, the Secretary General, a Peruvian, is engaging in all the elements of mediation, listening to both sides and presenting possible answers to save faces and restore peace.

Meetings Are Set

His spokesman, François Giuliani, recalled the self-imposed restraint demanded by Mr. Haig's attempt and said: "But obviously, now there is a different situation. If the Secretary General can play a role, this is the time for it. The United Nations is ready to help and he is personally willing to help the parties find a solution."

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar set up meetings today with representatives of the two sides. He was to talk with Foreign Secretary Francis Pym of Britain at a working dinner tonight. Earlier, the Secretary General scheduled a meeting with the chief Argentine delegate to the world body, Eduardo Roca. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar saw Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Méndez of Argentina on Friday.

Mr. Costa Méndez said then that his nation would accept a United Nations role to settle the conflict. The British have not been so forthcoming, although an aide to Mr. Pym said today that United Nations involvement was not excluded.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar for the first time chaired his task force, which has been drawing up Falkland plans for nearly three weeks. The task force is led by Rafeeuddin Ahmed of Pakistan, a special representative of the Secretary General. Its membership includes two Americans, James Sutterlin and George L. Sherry.

Proposes U.N. Peacekeepers

Among the proposals the task force has reportedly discussed is a plan for the simultaneous withdrawal from the islands of the Argentine troops and the British fleet. This would be coupled with some pledge from Britain that could lead to ultimate sovereignty by Argentina over the Falklands.

The task force is also said to be working on details for a United Nations presence on the islands, including peacekeepers, temporary administrators or both. Mr. Sherry works in the peacekeeping office of Brian Urquhart, an Under Secretary General. Virtually every crisis at the United Nations brings Mr. Urquhart to the heart of the affair, but his British nationality bars him from this one.

Finally, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar conferred with the Security Council's current president, Ling Qing of China. They issued a joint statement, expressing "their profound concern in view of the heightened hostilities" over the Falklands.

British diplomats have already indicated that they would not welcome further intervention by the Security Council. That body would probably call for a halt to the fighting and Britain believes that it must maintain military pressure on the islands to insure Argentina's withdrawal. Britain, as a permament member, could veto any unwanted Security Council resolution, but that move would be embarassing.

However, with Security Council approval. President Ling might ask Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar to try to settle the dispute. That would give the Secretary General the formal mandate with which he feels most comfortable.

Some United Nations analysts think the time is ripe for a quick political solution. As one put it, "The British are clobbering the Argentines but the Argentines haven't collapsed. That's the time for settlement."

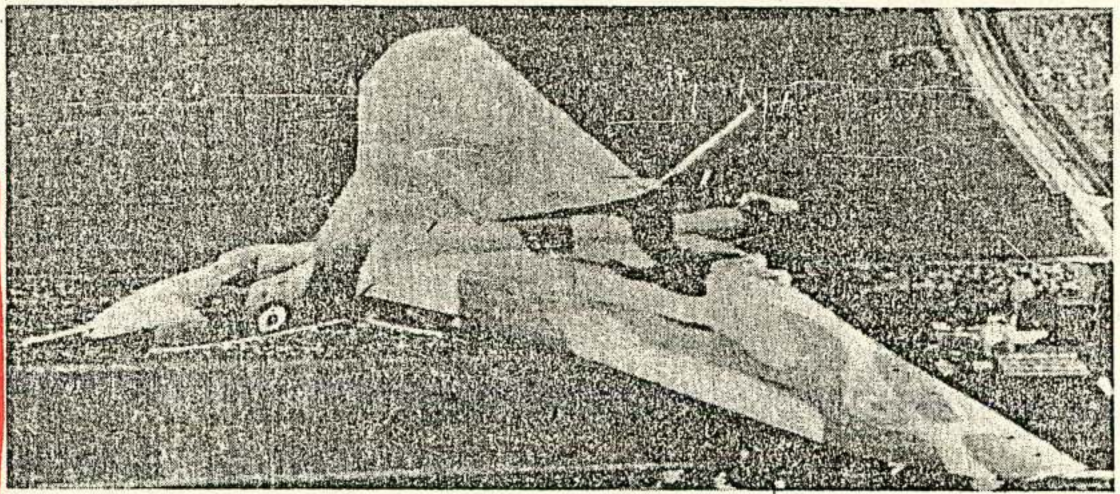
Briton Cites the Bard On Argentine Claims

LONDON, May 2 (Reuters) — Britain's Defense Ministry drew upon Shakespeare today to respond to reports by Argentina that it downed five British jets over the Falklands Saturday.

Asked at a news conference about the Argentine account, a ministry spokesman, Ian McDonald, said, "I refer you to 'Hamlet,' Act 3, Scene 4, lines 53 and 54."

He offered no more, but a page from "Hamlet" was promptly pinned on a bulletin board alongside the military communiqués.

The cited quotation, in which Hamlet contrasts his noble father with his father's brother and murderer, reads, "Look here, upon this picture, and on this, the counterfeit presentment of two brothers."



United Press International

A Royal Air Force Vulcan bomber of the type used to attack one of the airfields in the Falklands. The planes were about to be retired.

Falklands Raid: Baptism of Fire for Aging Bomber

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 2 — The Royal Air Force reached back to the technology of the 1950's and an aircraft first deployed as a nuclear bomber in 1960 to mount the single most effective attack of Britain's Falkland Islands conflict.

Military Analysis

Plucked out of impending retirement, a Vulcan made the 3,500-mile flight from Ascension Island and attacked the runway at the Stanley airfield. According to British reports, the attack effectively put the airfield out of operation by cratering the runway. The bomber was apparently refueled in flight by a Victor tanker.

The operation seemed to prove the usefulness of the long-range bomber in conventional warfare. United States Air Force sources pointed out that America had also used elderly bombers, the B-52G, first deployed in 1959, and the B-52H, dating from 1962, effectively for conventional attacks in Vietnam in the late 1960's and early 70's.

Like the Vulcan, the B-52 was designed to drop nuclear bombs. Like the Vulcan, it never has.

No one was happier over the reappearance of the heavy bomber in the Falklands than two of the foremost advocates of what was called "heavy bombardment" in World War II.

Former Air Commanders

One was Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris, who commanded the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command during the second half of the war. He is 90 years old. The other was Lieut. Gen. James Doolittle, a former commander of the American Eighth Air Force, now 86.

They were in London for a reunion of the surviving aircrew of Bomber Command. Sir Arthur was typically outspoken about the Vulcan attack.

He emphasized the importance of knocking out runways "so that our enemy, if he is worth calling that, cannot use them."

The British, he added, "have done exactly what should be done, trying to destroy the runway that the enemy is using. I would have done exactly that."

Calls for Heavier Bombs

Sir Arthur, as he left a commemoration service at St. Clement Dane's Church, added that if he had been in command he would have used heavier bombs than the 1,000-pound missiles dropped by the Vulcan. This, he said, would have resulted in craters even bigger than those 30 feet across and 20 feet deep that were left by the Vulcan.

The R.A.F.'s 84 Vulcans were scheduled to be phased out of service this summer. In the future Britain's nuclear deterrent is to rest with a small fleet of ballistic missile submarines and R.A.F. Buccaneer and Jaguar strike aircraft.

Neither of these aircraft has the range of the Vulcans. Nor do they have other qualities such as the ability to fly at 55,000 feet, out of range of surface-to-air missiles, or to approach a target "on the deck," thus avoiding enemy radar. In the attack on the Stanley airfield neither of these qualities was important. According to Ministry of Defense officials all radar on and around the airfield had been jammed by electronic countermeasures.

When it first flew in the 60's, the Vulcan was the world's first delta-wing bomber, with a speed of Mach 0.95, or almost the speed of sound. In its day the Vulcan, like the B-52, was considered capable of penetrating Soviet air defenses to hit targets in the interior.

Changes in Technology

Technology and time caught up with the Vulcan. Submarine-launched ballistic missiles improved in accuracy. The submarines that fired them were believed less easy to hit than bombers tied to airfields. The development of the surface-to-air missile linked to radar increased the difficulty of getting through Soviet defenses.

The confrontation with Argentina over the Falklands resurrected the Vulcan. The immediate need was for a heavy bomber based on Ascension Island that could reach Stanley. The Vulcan was the only answer, although the Ministry of Defense appeared far from happy about the choice.

On April 18 the ministry announced that it was modifying 10 Vulcans to carry conventional bombs. The bomb load under those conditions is 21 1,000-pound bombs or any combination of weapons equal to that overall payload.

"It's a long way from deciding to acquire a capability to deciding to use that capability," a Ministry of Defense official said at the time.

Little Time Needed

In the event it took less than two weeks to modify the Vulcan, train the crews and for the British Chiefs of Staff to realize that they had a weapon that could complete the air and sea blockade of the Falklands by knocking out the airfield.

The Vulcans were sent to the coast of Scotland to train in conventional bombing. One was chosen for the Stanley mission with a second available as a backup aircraft.

R.A.F. sources, rejoicing in what they said was the lone Vulcan's success, argued that one or more of the bombers could be used again in the unlikely event that the Argentines repaired the airfield at Stanley.

But in all probability the Stanley raid was the Vulcan's first and last combat mission.

New Tremor in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, May 2 (Reuters) — A strong earth tremor today, the second in 24 hours, shook the Montenegrin coastal region of Yugoslavia, an area devastated three years ago by a huge earthquake, officials said. There were no reports of casualties or damage in either tremor.

Crisis in the Falklands: How Destroyer Became an Inferno

British Force: Options After Sheffield's Loss

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 6 — The acute shortage of air cover for the fleet, which has been a calculated risk from the start of the British intervention in the Falkland Islands, may have drastically reduced the tactical options open to the task force.

Military Analysis

The successful attack on the destroyer Sheffield by an Exocet missile fired by a Super Etendard fighter-bomber, informed British military sources said, was likely to force the movement of the two carriers, the Hermes and the Invincible, and their protecting screen well east of the islands, out of range of further Argentine attack.

This would reduce the capacity of the fleet's Sea Harriers to cover a British landing on the islands.

The Harriers, British naval sources suggested, would now be used exclusively to patrol the air space beyond the fleet to avert another attack by Argentine planes flying from bases on the mainland.

In assessing the loss of the Sheffield, the fact has emerged that only two ships in the task force, the destroyers Broadsword and Brilliant, are armed with Sea Wolf antimissile missiles reportedly capable of knocking down Exocet missiles.

British naval sources said the Sea Wolf, built by British Aerospace, is fast enough and accurate enough to split a shell in midflight. But the weapons system has been considered too large to be installed in other ships now deployed.

The Sheffield, although designed for defense against aircraft, was armed only with a twin Sea Dart launcher on the foredeck. The Sea Dart is a medium range missile that can be employed against aircraft or other ships but is not effective against missiles.

Reconstruction of the Argentine attack starts with the premise that the Super Etendards operated out of one of the southern airfields such as Rio Gallegos or somewhere in Tierra del Fuego.

The Sheffield was operating as a picket outside the area covered by the task force's major units. The Argentine pilot, flying at low level, probably climbed to identify the target on his radar after a first sighting by a reconnaissance plane and transferred data to the Exocet's inertial guidance system.

The Argentine plane probably showed momentarily as a blip on the Sheffield's radar. The moment the missile was released, the pilot could be expected to dive out of radar sight and speed homeward.

From that point the Sheffield had to deal with a 15-foot missile with a 350-pound warhead moving at close to the speed of sound, just above the waves and below ordinary radar detection. Exocet carries a radio altimeter enabling it to cling to the surface of the sea and to frustrate even close range radar. As it approaches the target the missile rises slightly to lock its miniature guidance radar on the target.

Naval sources suggested that observers on the bridge saw the vapor trail of the approaching missile. The ship may have turned its Oerlikon guns on it. By then it was too late.

The only possible defense for the Sheffield would be to jam the Exocet's homing radar by sending on the same frequency. Naval sources would not disclose the nature of the electronomic countermeasures installed on the Sheffield or other ships of her class.

As the missile neared the Sheffield it homed on the destroyer's radar echo and hit the base of the ship's thinly-armored superstructure. The present reconstruction of the attack deduces that the missile, which weighs about 14,000 pounds, hit the operations room, the Sheffield's "brain," and put most of the ship's electronic systems out of action. The fire that burst out immediately in the ship's aluminum structure trapped a number of men below decks.

The missile's explosion, it is believed, also destroyed the sprinkling system with which the Sheffield was fitted as well as the ship's communication system. The fire was beyond control of the ship's own damage control teams or those of neighboring ships that arrived to give aid.

With air protection at close to the absolute minimum, the British are likely to reconsider deployment of other picket ships outside the immediate protection of the fleet's Harrier patrols. This means that the fleet, moving eastward, may be out of range for any supported landings on East Falkland Island.

One antidote for the fleet's vulnerability is to increase the number of long range Nimrod sea and air reconnaissance aircraft operating out of Ascension Island. The Nimrod is comparable to the Air Force's Airborne Warning and Control System. Two are believed to be based there at present, but naval sources believe the number should be doubled as soon as practicable.

Another step has already been taken. A squadron of 10 Sea King helicopters will leave in about a week for the South Atlantic aboard the Atlantic Causeway, a requisitioned container ship. The Sea King's will reinforce the 40 helicopters now aboard Invincible and Hermes.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1982

Austere Argentine Admiral

Jorge Isaac Anaya

By JAMES M. MARKHAM

Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 6 — The sinking of the British destroyer Sheffield by an Argentine Super Etendard fighter-bomber in the icy waters of the South Atlantic on Tuesday has all the earmarks of an operation ordered by the austere commander of the Argentine Navy, Adm. Jorge Isaac Anaya.

Man in the News

Although a plane, not a ship, dealt the British their first reversal in the war over the Falkland Islands, the French-built Super Etendard that sank the Sheffield belonged to the Argentine Navy, not the air force.

It is appropriate that Admiral Anaya's 36,000-member navy should have registered the first counterthrust to the initial British successes in the conflict. The taciturn 55-year-old navy officer is widely seen as an architect of the takeover of the Malvinas, as the islands are called here, and the most tenacious opponent of diplomatic concessions in the three-man junta to which he belongs.

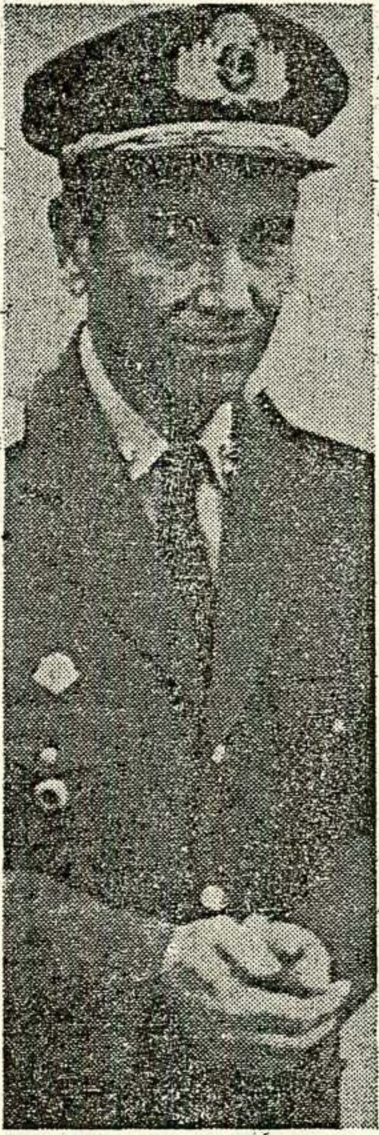
Moreover, in the opening actions the navy took the severest beating, losing one of its four submarines and its sole cruiser, the General Belgrano.

Most Aggressive of the Services

The day after the sinking of the cruiser, Convicción, an afternoon newspaper that speaks for the navy, telegraphed the coming strike by the Super Etendard. "In the coming hours," declared the tabloid, "the aggressors will realize that they are not struggling against armed forces but against a country supported by a whole continent." Only hours after the newspaper appeared, the Sheffield was hit by the wave-skimming Exocet missile.

Historically, the navy has been the most aggressive of the three armed services in arguing that the Falklands, which have been in British hands since 1833, should be taken by force. But shortly after being named navy chief last September, Admiral Anaya appears to have brought renewed determination to convert words to deeds.

This determination acquired added momentum when Admiral Anaya's longstanding friend, Lieut. Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the army commander, shouldered aside the country's ineffectual President, Lieut. Gen. Roberto Eduardo Viola, in a coup Dec. 22.



Associated Press

The most tenacious opponent of diplomatic concessions in the three-man Argentine junta.

According to a variety of accounts, General Galtieri obtained the support of the navy commander before the coup by promising that the Falklands would soon be known throughout the world as the Malvinas — that the armed forces would make them Argentine by the use of force. A process was begun that is now being violently played out in the South Atlantic.

The signals, in retrospect, were plain. Months before the invasion, there were reports here that the Argentine military was, as long promised, going to invade. On Dec. 31, Admiral Anaya told the Buenos Aires daily Clarín that one aim of the navy was "the reaffirmation of coastal sovereignty" — a clear reference to the Falklands.

After the international storms stirred by the April 2 assault, which was led by navy marines, Admiral Anaya immediately staked out a tough negotiating position with Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., who shuttled between Buenos Aires and London searching for a diplomatic way out of the crisis. At one tense session, Mr. Haig complained about reports in the Buenos Aires press portraying him as pro-British. Admiral Anaya curtly told the American envoy that he thought the press accounts were correct.

The commander of the Argentine Navy was born on Sept. 27, 1926, in Bahía Blanca in Buenos Aires Province, and entered the navy as a cadet in 1944. He rose steadily through the ranks, taking courses in antisubmarine warfare and mountain combat. He became a vice admiral in 1977 and was named an admiral four years later.

He is married to Nélida Sánchez Loria, and they have two sons.

'Foursquare Military Officer'

Those who have met the admiral describe him as formal and sparing with his words, "a foursquare military officer," in the expression of one ambassador. Another diplomat found him "very Spanish, very Castilian and proud."

This severity sets him off from President Galtieri, a gregarious Argentine of Italian stock who is said in his conversation to go out of his way to be likable. The two men, though, went to school together, parting to attend separate military academies.

Although he is a determined foe of the British naval task force, Admiral Anaya is also, like many Argentine officers, a stern anti-Communist, and Western diplomats think that he would probably oppose turning to the Soviet Union for anything but diplomatic help in the crisis. In combating the British, he can fall back on knowledge of Britain gathered during a tour as Argentina's naval attaché in London in 1975.

British Frigate Attacks Argentine Vessel

By WILLIAM TUOHY, *Times Staff Writer*

LONDON—A British frigate Tuesday shelled an Argentine ship steaming inside Falkland Sound, which separates the main two islands of the archipelago.

Defense Ministry officials said that the commander of the frigate Alacrity reported a loud "explosion" from the vessel.

A reporter with the British task force said the ship sunk after exploding "with a fireball that hit the cloud cover." He said it was not likely that any of the crew could have survived.

The Argentine ship was described here as a supply vessel, thought to be one of those bottled up in the Falklands when Britain put its "total exclusion zone" into effect April 30.

The ship is believed to have been running supplies between East and West Falkland under cover of darkness, and the British attack presumably increased the isolation of the Argentine garrison on the West Falkland island.

Most of the 10,000-man Argentine invasion force is believed to be on East Falkland.

"I think this shows how tight our grip is on the islands," Defense Ministry spokesman Ian McDonald said. McDonald said the target was sighted at the widest part of Falkland Sound, which ranges up to 25 miles—the width of the English Channel—at some points.

In Buenos Aires, an Argentine military spokesman denied the report of the shelling.

"We did not have any ship in the channel," the spokesman said, adding that the explosions reported by London "could have been a mine." He said British ships were "firing on the islands at random, hitting nothing."

The frigate Alacrity is armed with 4.5-inch guns, which can fire 20 rounds a minute and are said to be extremely accurate with a range of more than 10 miles.

Correspondents with the British task force said the Alacrity fired from a distance of eight miles.

At the same time, reports from the task force said that two days ago, a British frigate steamed around both of the main Falkland islands, investigating coves and bays, and then sailed through the sound.

The frigate fired its guns and launched its helicopter, which dropped flares, in what seemed to be an attempt to draw fire from the Argentine garrisons on the islands, according to one correspondent. Argentine gunners ashore, however, refused to take up this "deliberate challenge," he reported.

The frigate operations seem to indicate that the task force commander was not particularly worried about an Argentine air attack, defense analysts in London said, perhaps because the movements took place in the dark or in heavy weather.

The action in the South Atlantic—the third successive day of British shelling—came as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met in London with her "crisis cabinet" to determine how serious the Argentine junta is in the last-ditch negotiations being conducted at the United Nations.

Thatcher also addressed Parliament on the negotiations, declaring, "There are certain fundamental principles which we cannot fudge in any way."

In other developments:

—There were unconfirmed reports circulating in British defense circles that Argentina may have lost one of its five Super Etendard jet fighter-bombers in an operational accident. One of the French-built Etendards launched the Exocet missile that wrecked the British destroyer Sheffield last week.

—The British Defense Ministry said that Argentine prisoners captured on South Georgia Island more than two weeks ago will arrive "very shortly" on Ascension Island, Britain's staging point near the Equator.

—Argentina announced that it will consider any British ship headed for the Falklands to be hostile. Defense Ministry sources said this means that British troop and supply ships on their way to the Falklands may detour well to the east to stay as far as possible from Argentine patrol planes, bombers and submarines.

—In Southampton, the converted Cunard liner, the Queen Elizabeth II, loaded crack troops of the Scots Guards, Welsh Guards and Gurkha Rifles and prepared to sail for the South Atlantic today.

Crisis in the Falklands: Sea Harriers Go Into Action Again

British Jets Pound Airport At Stanley for a Third Time

By R. W. APPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Saturday, May 15 — British Sea Harrier jets carried out another bombing raid Friday night on the airport at Stanley, the main town in the Falkland Islands, the Ministry of Defense announced early this morning.

The bombing attack was the third by British aircraft in a month and was apparently intended to counteract Argentine efforts to repair craters in the runway left by earlier bombings. The Defense Ministry's announcement gave no other details.

A few hours earlier, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned that a negotiated settlement of the Falklands conflict "may prove to be unattainable."

'The Only Other Course'

Repeating her pledge that she would not countenance a "sellout" of British principles, the Prime Minister told the 100th annual conference of the Scottish Conservative Party in Perth that if peace talks at the United Nations broke down, "We should have to turn to the only other course open to us." She did not specify it, but her cheering audience knew she meant invasion of the islands.

It was learned from authoritative military sources, meanwhile, that the converted cruise ship Canberra, carring at least 2,500 assualt troops, the amphibious assault ship Fearless and other ships had arrived off the Falklands to join the advance elements of the British task force. Their presence lent weight to Mrs. Thatcher's threat, since they will be needed if even a limited invasion is mounted.

John Nott, the Defense Secretary, referred obliquely to the arrival of the ships when he told the House of Commons on Thursday night that the British were poised to retake the islands "at an early date." That date, politicians and others here believe, might come as early as Sunday night or Monday.

Accord Called Unlikely

Senior Government officials put the matter somewhat more strongly than Mrs. Thatcher, describing the peace efforts of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary General, as a long shot at best. One of Mrs. Thatcher's senior aides commented Friday, "I remain my usual pessimistic self."

After a Cabinet meeting, British journalists were told that Sir Anthony Parsons, London's chief delegate to the United Nations, had made it clear to the Secretary General that there could be no agreement unless Argentina made "further substantial concessions."

However, there will be no landing, a Cabinet minister said, until the European Economic Community has decided this weekend whether to renew trade sanctions against Argentina and until Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's efforts have run their course. He said in New York Friday that he expected final statements from the two sides soon.

The British colony in the South Atlan- has now been in Argentine hands for weeks, and Mr. Nott, also speaking in Perth, said that "we cannot allow the present situation on the Falkland Islands to endure much longer."

He, Mrs. Thatcher and Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, remained under strong pressure from Tory right wingers, who heckled Mr. Pym mercilessly in the House on Thursday as he tried to spell out the terms on which Britain would accept a settlement. Much was made by the press and by right wingers today of differences between the Foreign Secretary's and the Prime Minister's statements.

Mr. Pym seemed prepared, for example, to accept a phased withdrawal of Argentine troops from the islands, accompanied by the gradual withdrawal of the task force, while Mrs. Thatcher said that the task force would not be pulled back until all the Argentines had left.

Enoch Powell, an old Conservative right winger who now represents the Ulster Unionists, all but called upon Mr. Pym to resign, and some of his allies said that the Tory party could be split wide open if a package of the sort Mr. Pym seemed to be willing to accept was approved by the Government.

In what some British commentators described as her toughest speech on the Falkland crisis, the Prime Minister denounced Friday night what she called Argentina's "coldly calculated invasion of British territory" and promised her Tory followers, "It will be ended."

A Warning of Failure

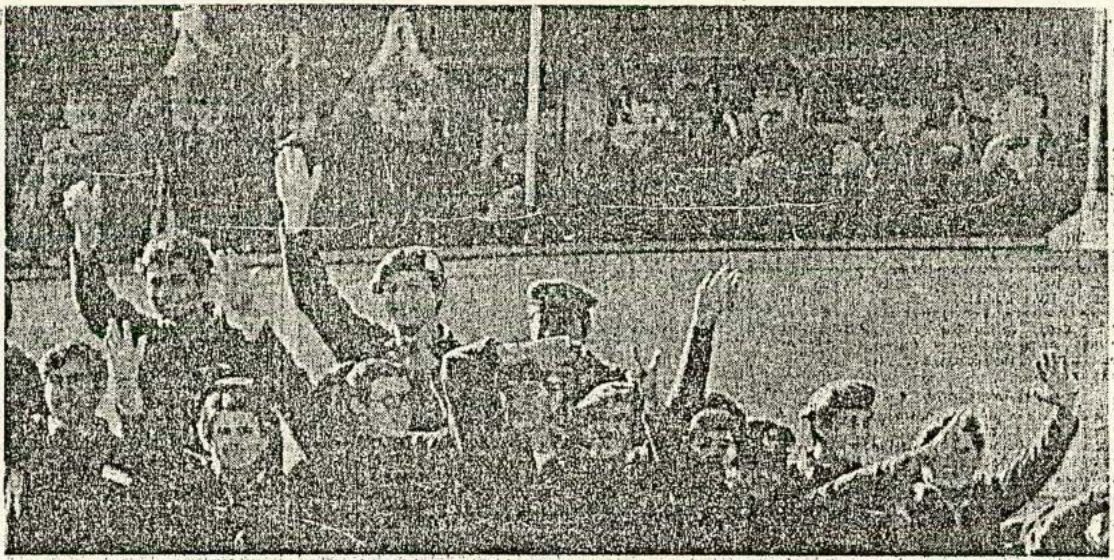
"I hope with all my heart that the negotiations will succeed," Mrs. Thatcher said. "I do not want to see one more life lost in the South Atlantic, whether Argentinian or British, if it can be avoided. But I would not be doing my duty if I did not warn you in the simplest and clearest terms that, for all our efforts, a negotiated settlement may prove to be unattainable."

In the South Atlantic, British naval operations in support of the 200-mile blockade zone around the Falklands were limited by bad weather — thick fog, heavy gales and rough seas. But the ships of the flotilla, many of them within sight of land, continued their intermittent bombardment of Argentine positions around Stanley with their 4.5-inch guns.

The Ministry of Defense disclosed details Friday of the air raid on the task force Wednesday in which two Argentine Skyhawk jets were shot down and a third was reported to have crashed.

The ministry said that a Skyhawk in a second wave of attackers dropped a bomb on a British warship that passed through the vessel without exploding. No one was hurt, the ministry reported, and the damage had been repaired well enough for the ship to stay on station. It was not known whether the ship's fighting ability was impaired.

Spokesmen refused to name the ship involved but said it was neither of the battle fleet's two aircraft carriers, the Hermes and the Invincible.



United Press International

Argentine sailors and marines, captured by the British when they retook South Georgia Island, returning to Buenos Aires in repatriation.

Argentine Frigates Sighted Northeast of Falklands

By BERNARD WEINRAUB
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 14 — American military analtsts said today that two Argentine frigates had been sighted about 400 miles northeast of the Falkland Islands and that they appeared to be on the lookout for British ships in the South Atlantic.

The analysts said the Argentine frigates were believed to be armed with Exocet missiles, the French-built weapon that an Argentine pilot used last week to demolish the British destroyer Sheffield. It is believed that the Argentines fired two of the missiles in the attack on the Sheffield and that they have only four of them left.

Argentina has already announced that that it would treat as hostile any ship or plane in the South Atlantic that seemed a threat to its security.

British officials have said the Argentine threat was not to the main battle fleet off the Falklands but rather to the cruise liner Canberra, which is carrying 2,500 to 3,000 troops to the combat zone. Although the position of the Canberra is not known here, there were reports from London today that she had arrived off the Falklands, where she could participate in a possible assault on the Argentine-occupied islands.

Worried by Argentine Warning

The American military analysts say British forces appear to be aware of the presence of the Argentine frigates northeast of the Falklands and may be using submarines to alert British ships [illegible]ming toward the area in hope of [illegible]ting a confrontation. British military officials are known to be worried, however, about a recent Argentine statement that hostile ships in the South Atlantic would be treated as enemies.

The State Department, meanwhile, withheld comment on a strongly worded Soviet statement today that British closure of sea lanes around the Falkland Islands was "provocative" and "unlawful." The official press agency Tass also said charges of Soviet involvement in the crisis were "absolutely unacceptable."

No Soviet Warship Believed Near

There was some feeling in the Administration that the Soviet statement, made to the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Curtis Keeble, was "consistent with their position of growing support for Argentina," according to a State Department official. But the Soviet statement did not seem to cause deep concern at the State Department.

American military analysts said the nearest Soviet combatant ship — its nature could not be learned from American officials — is off the coast of South Africa. That vessel is supported by five supply ships. In addition, about a dozen Soviet trawlers, mostly intelligence-gathering vessels, are believed to be patrolling north and south of the Falklands, but at a substantial distance, at least 200 miles away, the analysts said.

Earlier in the day, the State Department reacted strongly to British newspaper reports that a special United States envoy, Vernon A. Walters, had offered new Administration ideas on the Falkland dispute to the Argentine Government in a visit to Buenos Aires. The Times of London said the United States was making the proposals because it had lost faith in the peace efforts of the United Nations Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

British Report Denied

Alan Romberg, a State Department spokesman, said, "None of that is true." In Ankara, Turkey, Dean Fischer, the department spokesman, who is traveling with Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., said Mr. Walters "did not go there to negotiate." Mr. Fischer added, "He went in order to facilitate communications and to maintain discussions with leaders of the Argentine Government."

The State Department also denied a Britis[illegible]rt that the Reagan Administration [illegible]warned London of a loss of American support if Britain took military action that did not meet American approval.

Although officials at the British Embassy in Washington also tended to discount the report, some uneasiness was expressed privately by diplomats who have stayed in close touch with the State Department. These diplomats said they viewed the mission by Mr. Walters, who is a retired Army general and former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as an effort by Mr. Haig "to keep lines of communication open."

British diplomats are especially worried by what one termed "ideologues" in the Administration who are "less than full-blooded in their support for the United Kingdom." British officials suggest that these "ideologues" want to remain as friendly as possible with Argentina because of that country's right-wing military leadership.

Argentina Will Allow Rabbis to Visit Troops

Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 14 — Three Argentine rabbis have been given permission to visit Jewish troops posted in southern Argentina among the forces facing the British task force in the South Atlantic.

It was the first time rabbis have been allowed direct access to Jewish soldiers at a time of mobilization, according to Jewish leaders here. There are about 500,000 Jews in Argentina.

Weinberger Visits Planned

WASHINGTON, May 14 (AP) — Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger will visit military installations in Colorado and Wyoming on Saturday for Armed Forces Day observances, the Pentagon announced today. He is to visit Fort Carson and the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, and F. E. Warren Air Force Base, in Cheyenne, Wyo. He will be principal speaker at the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Day banquet and then return to Washington.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1982

Argentina's Next Move: Its Military Options Against the British Task Force

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

Military Analysis

LONDON, May 15 — Argentina's high command is likely to come under pressure for an operation to restore Argentine prestige after a series of British attacks by sea, air and, now, on land in the Falkland Islands, according to military sources here.

The analysts believe there are a number of courses open to the Argentines, but they say that each involves risks in casualties and matériel losses that may be unacceptable.

Pressure for an operation that will restore Argentine prestige, the analysts said, is likely to rise as a result of the British landing on Pebble Island north of West Falkland Island. This appears to have been a classic commando operation that destroyed about 10 planes on the ground and an ammunition dump. The raid was supported by naval gunfire.

Some of the planes were Pucará counterinsurgency aircraft that would have been useful in supporting the Argentine garrison in the Falkland Islands against major British landings, expected to occur if the negotiations at the United Nations break down.

British military opinion is that Argentina retains sufficient air and sea resources to inflict losses on the British task force. The British sources emphasize, however, that Argentina must act soon before British naval and air reinforcements reach the area.

The reinforcements include 15 or more Harriers now approaching the task force in the container ship Atlantic Conveyor and the Fifth Brigade of 3,000 men on the Queen Elizabeth 2.

British naval sources say the luxury liner and her passengers probably are a tempting target for the Argentine Navy. Two Argentine frigates have been reported 400 miles north of the Falklands, and highly placed sources said the ships might be guided to the Queen Elizabeth by information from Soviet satellites.

In the "worst case" scenario, a planner said, the Argentine frigates, possibly working with a submarine, might destroy the escort and then the liner. Such an operation, while possible, would involve a higher qualitative level than the Argentine Navy has displayed, the planner said. In his view, Argentina has basically a coastal defense rather than a "blue water" fleet.

The second course open to the Argentines is a renewal in greater strength of air attacks on the fleet. Such attacks would involve some cooperation from the weather, and this is unlikely to be forthcoming for several days.

What was described as "a large and intense storm" is moving toward the Falkland Islands from the west, carrying gusty winds of 30 to 40 miles an hour and heavy clouds between 1,000 and 2,000 feet. The storm is predicted to reach the islands Sunday at the latest.

This is not the sort of weather that favors air operations. Air attack, however, may be the simplest way of winning the victory the British believe the Argentine junta needs. Any of the older Argentine planes, the A-4, the Mirage and the Dagger, could bomb the task force, now believed to be about 40 miles off East Falkland Island.

Unless refueled — and intelligence sources are dubious about Argentine refueling capacity — no attacker would have sufficient fuel to make more than one or, at most, two attacks on the fleet. However, an attack could result in a British ship's being sunk or severely damaged, a feat that could be presented as a decisive victory that more than compensated for earlier Argentine losses.

Other analysts believe Argentina may forgo raids on the task force and return to single sorties by Super-Etendard naval fighter-bombers armed with Exocet missiles.

Use of Exocet Missile Suggested

It was an Exocet that reduced the frigate Sheffield to a smouldering wreck on May 4. Naval analysts, while not ruling out a similar attack, particularly against the aircraft carriers Hermes and Invincible, say the British are now better defended.

Nimrod long-range reconnaisance planes are now patrolling west of the task force. It would be difficult but not impossible for a team of a scouting plane and a Super-Etandard to get past the Nimrod's radar observation.

The final and most unlikely option for Argentina is to send the fleet into a major action against the British task force. Some naval sources believe that such an action would be suicidal.

The Argentine fleet, they said, would have to get past the British submarine screen patrolling outside Argentina's naval bases. It would then be able to bring the British fleet to battle only in circumstances in which Argentina's numerical superiority in the air would be negated by distance from land bases.

In that case, the Argentines would have to depend on the 14 Super-Etendard fighters on their only carrier, the Veinticinco del Mayo.

The carrier, while technically at sea, is deployed just off the coast out of sight of the Argentine people but far enough from the British submarine force to minimize the risk of attack.

Discussion of Argentina's military options in British Government circles is more than balanced by expectations that the British land troops in the Falklands once it is clear that talks at the United Nations have failed. Some military sources showed restiveness, contending that Britain would be in a far better position to negotiate with 2,000 or 3,000 men ashore.

This is a generous estimate. The troops now with the task force include two Royal Marine commandos, each normally with a strength of 600 men, and two battalions of the parachute regiment, of about 800 men each.

Although outnumbered, the British forces have light artillery and Rapier antiaircraft missiles. They also have the advantage of being able to pick places to land by helicopter and landing craft in any of the many coves and grassy plains in the Falklands.

According to the Royal United Services Institution, four Argentine battalions are now deployed around Stanley, the main settlement. A fifth is at Darwin, near the Goose Green airstrip. A sixth unit of slightly more than a thousand man is on West Falkland Island. Counting supply and communications units, Argentine strength is estimated at 9,000 men.

The quantitative odds, thus, are better than 3 to 1 against the British. Analysts say, however, that the element of surprise, the key to success in war, in choosing landing areas and the higher quality of the British troops "make it pretty much of an even thing."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 17, 1982

Crisis in the Falklands: The Advocates of Urgency Enlist 'Macbeth'

British Attack: 'Twere Well It Were Done Quickly'

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times



Telam via United Press International

A photo released by the Argentine Government shows soldiers near an antiaircraft gun in the Falkland Islands.

LONDON, May 16 — The military arguments for prompt British landings in the Falkland Islands are multiplying.

Military Analysis

Supporting the argument, military analysts said, are the evident dangers to the British task force in continuing the blockade in the face of numerically superior Argentine air power and three unlocated submarines. Also on the side backing a landing, the analysts said, was the relatively easy success of Friday's commando raid on Pebble Island.

The alternative to landings by marine commandos and paratroops in battalion strength is a series of hit-and-run raids by commandos against isolated Argentine outposts. These would serve to keep the Argentine garrisons off balance and apprehensive, but they are unlikely to have the military or political impact of the establishment ashore of two or more battalions.

Say British Would Have Edge

Major landings would have their own risks. But the military view here is that as long as the landings were made at some distance from the main Argentine garrisons on East Falkland Island at Stanley and Darwin, the British could consolidate their landings and be in a favorable position, backed by Harrier jet fighters and helicopter support, to rebuff Argentine counterattacks.

Harriers carried out another attack on the Stanley airfield late Saturday. This could have been part of the softening up process preparatory to landings, or it could have been simply another effort to tighten the blockade by hitting the island's only major airfield.

The British tactical problem is complicated by the presence on the islands of four or five mobile radar systems. Most of these are operating on East Falkland.

When the task force sailed six weeks ago, the Royal Navy advertised its capacity to jam both radar and communictions between the islands and the mainland. Evidently, it has not been able to halt the radar transmissions. The Argentine teams, constantly on the move, pick up ships of the task force as they approach the islands and transmit the information to air and sea headquarters on the mainland.

Military Urges Landings

This ability to pinpoint the British ships as they approach the islands is one of the reasons why British military leaders are urging the Government to permit landing operations soon. The military leaders are concerned, an official said, by the prospect that further time will be wasted in what they regard as futile talks at the United Nations.

Another reason is that the air and sea blockade is not as tight as had been hoped. One object of the Pebble Island operation was to eliminate the airstrip on which light aircraft, based on the mainland, had been landing supplies, which were then ferried to East Falkland or dropped to the garrisons on West Falkland and at Darwin.

British sources are confident that supply missions of this sort do not lessen the overall impact of the blockade. But they concede that garrisons running short of food and spare parts can be kept going by frequent air drops.

One of the main distributors of supplies reaching Pebble Island was the Argentine merchant ship Islas dos los Estados. The British frigate Alacrity apparently sunk her with four rounds from a 4.5-millimeter gun Thursday morning.

British Gathering Information

The raid by 50 commandos on Pebble Island and reports from the 100 or more troops on the Special Boat Squadron believed to be operating on East Falkland for the last 10 days have provided the task force with a great deal of information about the size and state of readiness of the Argentine garrisons.

But the information, although valuable, does not outweigh the difficulties that the British have faced since the outset of the operation.

Sir Michael Beetham, head of the Royal Air Force, has been apprehensive about Britain's numerical weakness in the air since the Falkland operation began, according to an air force source.

The 20 or more Harriers available, the source said, are not sufficient to maintain air protection of the fleet and simultaneously support a landing. Landings can be made, military sources are confident, but the troops ashore would then be vulnerable to air attack from the Argentine mainland.

British planners point out that the most successful Argentine attack — the disabling of the destroyer Sheffield — was carried out by Argentine aircraft flying from mainland bases.

They balance this with British successes against the Argentine surveillance ship Narval and the bombing of airfields and installations in Stanley and Goose Green. They add that the Super Etendard fighter bombers aboard Argentina's only carrier have played no role in the fighting.

As far as could be learned from qualified sources, the British Chiefs of Staff have told the Government for the last week that conditions for a landing will be better in the next five days than they are likely to be until winter storms abate.

The ground has been prepared by the attacks on Stanley, by the accumulation of detailed intelligence about the location, morale and state of armament of the garrison and by the addition of the transport ship Canberra, with about 2,500 troops aboard, to the task force. To allow the Canberra and later the Queen Elizabeth 2, carrying the Fifth Brigade, to loiter off the Falklands in defiance of the threat of Argentine aircraft and submarines is to "invite trouble," a senior naval officer said.

The view in senior military quarters is that a blockade, no matter how tight, is unlikely to force an Argentine surrender.

Options other than major landings do not commend themselves to the army or the navy. One obvious option is "littoral warfare," enshrined in British military doctrine since the Napoleonic wars. But warfare of this type involving repeated air or seaborn landings is unlikely to be profitable or even possible as the weather deteriorates.

'Macbeth' Invoked

Any or all such landings could involve the construction of a makeshift airstrip for use by Harriers and Sea King helicopters.

Despite the obvious dangers involved in a major landing, the Chiefs of Staff, it was learned, favor this as the most effective choice available to them with the present resources and the prevailing weather.

One planner summed up the situation with a quotation from "Macbeth": "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly."

- WASHINGTON POST -

Britain Says It Shells Ships; Final U.N. Drive Is Readied

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, May 16—British forces continued "softening up" Argentine defenses for an invasion of the Falkland Islands today as the government prepared its strategy for a climactic week of negotiations at the United Nations, which is viewed here as the last opportunity for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis.

Sea Harrier jets from the British naval task force off the Falklands today attacked two Argentine ships in harbors on Falkland Sound between East and West Falkland islands, the Defense Ministry announced here. British correspondents with the task force said other Harriers attacked Argentine military installations around the Stanley airfield early today for the third time in three days.

The Argentine ships were bombed and strafed, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. "We have no firm indication of the extent of the damage caused, although the crew of one of the vessels was subsequently seen to be abandoning ship."

Two Harriers also attacked an Argentine merchant ship, the Rio Carcarania, off East Falkland Island near the port of Darwin, British correspondents reported, and pilots in two Harriers following behind saw survivors on their way to shore in lifeboats.

Two more Harriers attacked another merchant ship moored in Fox Bay on West Falkland Island, according to British Broadcasting Corp. correspondent Brian Hanrahan on the British aircraft carrier Hermes. Hanrahan said the ship fired back, hitting one of the Harriers in the tail, but the damage was reparable and the pilot was unhurt.

[The Argentine military command announced that British Sea Harrier warplanes attacked "without consequence" Darwin, which is located on a sound in the center of East Falkland, and Zorro Bay, just south of Darwin, correspondent Jackson Diehl reported. A military communique gave no further details.

[The military command later reported that the supply ship Isla de los Estados, reported missing two days ago, was now presumed to have sunk. The boat was being used to supply provisions to the islands' civilian residents, the military command said.]

The Isla de los Estados, carrying a crew of 30 to 40, reportedly was hit by British shells last Tuesday in the narrow sound that separates East and West Falkland.

The attacks on the ships in Falkland Sound appeared aimed at cutting all communications between Argentine forces on the two main Falkland

See BRITAIN, A20, Col. 3

Propaganda Blurs War News In Buenos Aires

By Margot Hornblower
Washington Post Foreign Service

BUENOS AIRES, May 16—A mysterious item appeared on the front page of La Razon, an afternoon newspaper here, on May 5. Headlined, "The Hermes Sunk?" the story said that, according to the Soviet news agency Tass, the British aircraft carrier had been bombed and sunk by Argentine airplanes.

The Argentine junta made no official comment. But in the press room of the Sheraton Hotel, an Air Force official confided, "We did it with a little Pucara plane that dropped six bombs and 32 rockets. We think the Hermes is severely damaged."

In the last two weeks, not a day has passed without speculation in the news media over the fate of the Hermes, the pride of the British Navy and flagship of its task force in the South Atlantic.

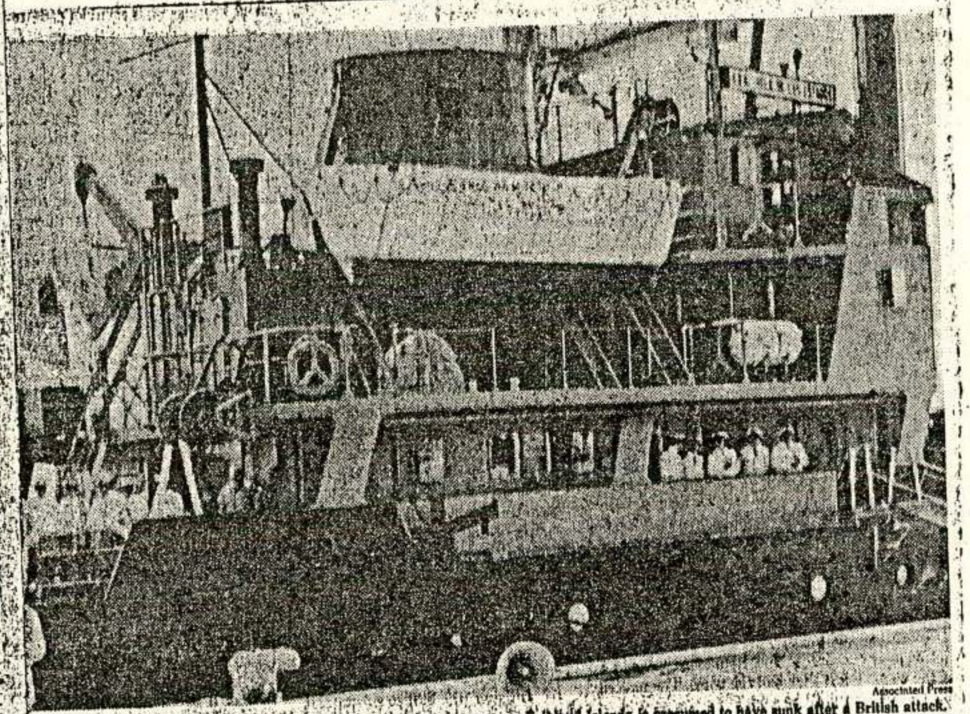
In a government film shown on all television stations last week, a raft and life-jackets imprinted "Hermes 654" were shown abandoned on the shore of the Falklands while a commentator asked breathlessly, "Is this a sign of the sinking of the Hermes?"

Britain has repeatedly labeled such reports as "ridiculous," and British correspondents aboard the aircraft carrier, albeit under censorship rules, report nothing is amiss. But most Argentines, even normally skeptical journalists, are convinced that the Hermes is disabled.

The conflicting reports are symptomatic of the confusion that reigns in this capital, more than 1,000 miles from the combat zone, where about 700 foreign correspondents have gathered to cover what is effectively an invisible war.

A propaganda campaign whipped up by

See ARGENTINA, A19, Col. 1



Associated Press

The Argentine merchant ship "Isla de los Estados," used to supply troops on Falkland Islands, is presumed to have sunk after a British attack.

Art. (X)

British Try to Sever Supply Lines of Foe

BRITAIN, From A1

islands. The Argentine ships were believed to have been taking food and supplies to approximately 1,500 Argentine troops on West Falkland Island.

The repeated attacks on the Stanley airfield are aimed at preventing its use by even light planes for supply of an estimated 5,000 or more Argentine troops in the vicinity, at destroying military installations including mobile radar believed to be used to direct Argentine air strikes against the British fleet and harassing the Argentine forces to reduce their readiness to defend against a British assault on the islands.

A senior British government source said today that such attacks as well as hit-and-run commando raids will continue "over the next few days" along with the negotiations at the United Nations. "There will be increasing harassment of the Argentine forces one way or another," the source said.

Declaring that the U.N. negotiations must "come to a head one way or another" this week, British Defense Secretary John Nott today warned, "If we fail to achieve a peaceful settlement, then we have no other choice but to pursue the military options much more vigorously than we have up to now.

"We will continue the softening up process of the garrison," Nott said in a radio interview. "We must put ourselves in a position that, if we decide so to do, we are ready to assault the islands and repossess them."

Asked in a radio interview if an invasion will become the most likely choice, Nott said, "time is very short when that decision will have to be taken."

Nott was interviewed during a break from seven hours of meetings Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held at her country residence at Chequers today with senior ministers and defense chiefs in her "war cabinet" plus Britain's ambassadors to the United Nations, Anthony Parsons, and to the United States, Nicholas Henderson.

Officials said they reviewed in detail Britain's diplomatic and military strategy to determine whether there appeared to be any way to secure through the U.N. negotiations an Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands on terms "consistent with our interest and principles."

A Thatcher aide said afterward, "There is still no point in being optimistic" about this. Parsons will return to New York Monday, according to the aide, "for what could be our last push at the U.N." unless Argentina substantially changes its negotiating position.

There is "still a considerable gap" between the British and Argentine positions on several important points, the aide said, and Britain is not prepared to give much more ground. Parsons is returning to New York "with the fullest possible authority" from Thatcher to react to any new proposals by Argentina or U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, but Parsons will not be taking with him any new formal British proposal.

"I think the talks are still alive," Nott said at Chequers after hearing Parsons' report to the inner cabinet. "There are great difficulties still in the way, but I am not totally despondent by what Sir Anthony [Parsons] has said this morning.

"But time is not on the side of negotiations," Nott added. "I don't think they can go on dragging on for much longer."

[In Buenos Aires, the ruling military junta was expected to meet this evening to finalize Argentina's position for the U.N. negotiations, officials said. President Leopoldo Galtieri said the talks in New York have reached a "vital" point, and officials here said they expected the fate of the negotiating effort could become clear on Monday, when both British and Argentine representatives are expected to report to Perez de Cuellar on the results of weekend consultations by their governments, Diehl reported.]

British sources said the primary sticking points in the U.N. negotiations at present are the arrangements for an Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands after a cease-fire and the form of an interim administration of the islands while their future status is negotiated. Perez de Cuellar has sought to arrange a cease-fire while postponing the difficult issue of sovereignty over the islands.

The sources said the Thatcher government has sought an "ironclad guarantee" that all Argentine military and civilian personnel now on the Falklands will be removed and stay off the islands if Britain agrees to a cease-fire.

Argentina appears to be seeking a faster pullback of the British forces further from the Falklands than the Thatcher government has offered. Thatcher has said the task force would not be completely pulled away from the Falklands until the Argentine withdrawal is completed.

The British also have insisted that a U.N. or international interim administration operate through the existing executive and legislative councils of the Falklands' 1,800 inhabitants of British heritage. During this period British negotiators would consult the islanders on options for their future status.

The Argentine military government apparently sees this as an attempt to block eventual transfer of sovereignty to Argentina. According to British sources, Argentina has proposed allowing "a free flow" of Argentines into the Falklands during the interim period as well as new elections.

British sources said this would amount to packing the islands and their councils with a majority of Argentine newcomers "who would vote only one way."

THE WASHINGTON POST Monday, May 17, 1982

British Media Say Raid Caused Heavy Casualties

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, May 16—The hit-and-run attack by British Marines on an Argentine military outpost on tiny Pebble Island Friday night and Saturday morning inflicted heavy casualties on Argentine troops and destroyed warplanes and possibly a radar installation, according to British news reports today.

Correspondents who watched from a destroyer that shelled the island during the raid described a classic, precisely-run operation. One hundred Royal Marines landed on the island and escaped with no serious casualties after fierce fighting in predawn darkness illuminated by moonlight and gunfire.

The commandos, led by a major, landed from helicopters on a clear night miles from the 600-yard airstrip on the small island just north of West Falkland Island. Argentine forces were reportedly using the airstrip as a "stepping-stone" base for moving supplies and troops around the Falklands, a hiding place for Pucara ground attack planes that could menace a British invasion force and a mobile radar station that could help direct Argentine air strikes against the British fleet.

The British correspondents reported that the commandos took hours to make their way by foot over the island's rocky, mountainous terrain to predetermined positions near dug-in Argentine defenders. Meanwhile, the British destroyer, which was not identified, left the rest of the task force after nightfall Friday to rendezvous with the commandos early Saturday morning.

"There was a bright moon, and the shoreline and mountains behind it were clearly visible," said British commercial television correspondent Michael Nicholson.

Arriving at the Argentine encampment around the Pebble Island airstrip with the commandos was a naval gunfire spotter, according to the destroyer's captain, who also was not identified. He used a radio to direct pinpoint shelling of Argentine positions around the airfield by two of the ship's 4.5-inch guns.

"The bombardment was spread over a large area of hillside where the force commander believed the Argentine forces were dug in," the destoyer's captain told British radio and television correspondents in an interview broadcast here today. "We spread the fire up the hillside to keep their heads down."

Under cover of this bombardment, some of the commandos machine-gunned Argentine positions while others placed and detonated explosives that blew up camouflaged aircraft and other equipment and installations. The British Defense Ministry said 11 planes were destroyed, including a short-takeoff transport plane and six Pucaras. A large ammunition dump also was blown up, the ministry said.

British sources said the Argentine forces on Pebble Island were believed to have suffered heavy casualties, but the Defense Ministry said it had no reliable information about this.

The British correspondents said the sky was lit up by the naval bombardment, by flares fired from the ship at the commandos' request and by machine-gun and mortar fire in combat between the British Marines and Argentine troops.

"The battle exploded in front of me as I watched from the destroyer just off shore," reported British Broadcasting Corp. correspondent Brian Hanrahan after he returned to the task force flagship, the aircraft carrier Hermes.

"From the sea, the ship threw out orange flames and covering fire, then star shells to show the attacking forces the ground. Then salvo after salvo of high explosive shells each whined away through the darkness to land among the defenders."

The destoyer fired 100 shells in 30 minutes. A half hour before dawn, the captain decided to rejoin the task force before the destroyer became a daylight target for Argentine warplanes.

As the commandos fought their way to waiting helicopters that took them back to the task force, two suffered concussions from land mines detonated around the air strip by Argentine forces by remote control, the British correspondents said. The Defense Ministry said the Marines suffered only "minor" injuries.

British Forces Intensify Drive In the Falklands

Two Ships in Sound Bombed, Airfield Is Raided; Stance Seems to Harden

By FREDERICK KEMPE
And EVERETT G. MARTIN
Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

British Harrier jets bombed and strafed two Argentine vessels in harbors on Falklands Sound, the British Defense Ministry said.

The ships were thought to have been anchored in the harbors before Britain imposed its blockade around the islands. The Defense Ministry said it hadn't "any firm indication of the extent of the damage caused although the crew of one of the vessels was subsequently seen to be abandoning it."

British correspondents reported that British warplanes also again bombed the airfield at Stanley.

News of the British attacks came hours after British Defense Secretary John Nott said Britain "will pursue the military options much more aggressively" if United Nations negotiations to end the Falklands conflict don't achieve results this week.

It was the first time any British official had indicated so exactly just how much longer Britain would have patience with the slow and uncertain progress of UN talks, six weeks after Argentina invaded the Falklands.

Moreover, Mr. Nott's statement also is clearly intended as a blunt warning to Argentina that Britain won't let up militarily after a weekend of raids on the islands, apparently aimed at helping clear the way for an eventual invasion force.

Speaking on a British radio program, Mr. Nott said UN talks were still alive. However, he added, "time isn't on the side of the negotiations. I don't think they can go on dragging on for very much longer. It will be necessary in my judgment, within the course of the next week, for them to come to a head one way or another."

Late yesterday in Luxembourg, the British war of nerves against Argentina appeared to suffer a setback. Common Market foreign ministers put off until today any decision on an extension of economic sanctions against Argentina. The delay was apparently caused by a failure to reach agreement.

Mr. Nott's assessment of the negotiations came after Sir Anthony Parsons, Britain's permanent representative at the UN, reported to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her five-member "war cabinet" at Chequers, her weekend retreat.

After long negotiations in New York, Mr. Parsons reported that the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, still hadn't been able to synthesize both sides' demands into a single settlement proposal to be presented to the British and the Argentines.

Mr. Nott said Britain must "put ourselves in a position that if we decide so to do, we are ready to assault the islands and repossess them."

That seemed exactly what Britain's task force in the south Atlantic was trying to do over the weekend. Warplanes pounded away at Argentine landing strips and air base installations at Port Stanley for three consecutive nights. Meanwhile, a group of marines raided Pebble Island—off the northernmost tip of West Falkland—and blew up an ammunition dump, radar equipment and 11 Argentine aircraft, according to the British Defense Ministry.

The Argentines said that only three aircraft were destroyed and that the attackers were repelled.

The raid on Pebble Island was the first official British report of ground forces landing and operating on the islands since the April 2 Argentine invasion. Defense sources also maintained the raid must have been prepared by an advance reconnaissance team that slipped onto the island to establish the location of Argentine planes and equipment.

U.S. negotiations will reconvene today, but the ranking British official said that "a considerable gap" existed. Although the Argentines have said they will agree to talks without a prior demand of Argentine sovereignty, they are also demanding that Argentines be allowed to settle on the island during an interim administration. That would give Argentina support when the sovereignty issue is decided.

In Buenos Aires, attention turned away from Britain and toward the U.S. Argentina's newspapers ran articles proclaiming that Washington's role is crucial in settling the dispute. An article by a former Argentine ambassador to the UN, Lucio Garcia del Solar, went so far as to argue that the U.S. should give Argentina a guarantee "either explicitly or secretly" that it will finally get sovereignty over the islands.

Although Argentine leaders would like to turn their backs on the U.S. now that President Reagan has come out in support of Britain, it is becoming increasingly clear to them, Mr. Garcia del Solar maintains, that they will need some kind of promise from Washington to sell a withdrawal from the Falklands to the Argentine public.

The Argentine leadership, of course, hasn't any assurances that the Reagan administration would go along. Since U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's mediating efforts failed, the U.S. has adopted a standby policy regarding the negotiations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

FALKLANDS: Briton Warns of Tough Military Steps

Continued from First Page

due to expire at midnight tonight.

Times correspondent Robert C. Toth reported from Luxembourg that Pym said "negotiations are very much alive" but that Britain will continue to exert military pressure in the South Atlantic dispute.

Pym said he expects the Common Market nations to act favorably today on extension of the sanctions, principally an embargo on all Argentine imports by the 10 Market countries, Toth reported. Pym also said that he expects military support from Britain's North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies if force is eventually used on a large scale to oust Argentine forces from the Falklands, a British colony that the Argentines seized April 2.

Crucial Point Ahead

Pym's comments, together with speculation among U.S. officials in the party with Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., indicated that Tuesday may see a turning point in the Falklands crisis—either toward a British invasion or toward a peaceful solution, Toth reported.

Emerging from an hour's private talk with Pym, Haig told reporters that the United States continues to hope for a political solution to the conflict, which he said is now in a "very critical phase."

Pym, in turn, said he expects support from NATO allies if Britain should invade the Falklands. The allies "have been very solid in support so far," he said. "We're going to have further discussions about that (in meetings here) and no doubt on further occasions as well."

Pym and Haig are both in Luxembourg for the regular semiannual meeting of the NATO foreign ministers today and Tuesday, although Pym said he will stay only for today's sessions, returning to London tonight.

The foreign ministers are expected to examine what effect the dispatch of British forces 8,000 miles from Europe has had on the defenses of the Atlantic Alliance. But the NATO ministers are also expected to support Britain in its actions, even while calling for a peaceful solution to the conflict, Toth reported.

EEC Support Dwindling

However, it was apparent from a Sunday night meeting of Common Market foreign ministers—a closed session that lasted more than two hours—that support for the British among that group is eroding. Ireland, which opposes any action that smacks of British colonialism, was reportedly the most reluctant member to extend the boycott of Argentine imports. Italy and Denmark are also reportedly less enthusiastic than they were a month ago, when the unprecedented ban was approved.

Ireland is not a NATO member, however, and was not represented in Sunday's NATO forum, although its formal position will be reflected in the Common Market action expected today.

Meanwhile, in Rome, Pope John Paul II publicly indicated for the first time that he might cancel his scheduled trip to Britain later this month because of the Falklands conflict.

The Pope told a Sunday audience at St. Peter's Square that a visit could only take place in an atmosphere of "peace and serenity." He is expected to make a final decision by midweek.

Commando Raid Described

Also on Sunday, journalists accompanying the British task force gave details of Britain's commando raid Friday night on Pebble Island, a 20-mile-long island that has a small settlement and a grass airstrip off the north shore of West Falkland.

A destroyer detached from the main body of the task force shelled the island with its 4.5-inch guns, the firing directed by an army spotting officer who was previously landed secretly on the island, the journalists reported.

After the preliminary bombardment, about 50 Royal Marine commandos were dropped by helicopter onto the island, where they destroyed six Pucara counter insurgency fighter planes, one small transport plane and four other light aircraft, all capable of operating from unimproved airstrips.

Once on the ground, the commandos used tracer bullets to fire at suspected Argentine military positions and also called for star shells and flares to light up the terrain.

An officer told one of the journalists that the naval bombardment was the "most intensive British naval gunfire action since World War II."

Besides the planes, the commandos were said to have destroyed a fuel and ammunition dump. All 50 of the men were then picked up—two of the them with slight injuries—by helicopters operating in gale-force winds.

In London, a senior government source said that U.N. Ambassador Parsons will return to New York today to take part in a final round of talks as part of Perez de Cuellar's efforts to find a negotiated end to the Falklands war.

Argentina May Protest 'Political Activities' by U.S. Ambassador

BUENOS AIRES (UPI)—The Argentine government may formally protest the "political activities" of U.S. Ambassador Harry W. Shlaudeman, a newspaper here reported Sunday.

The report followed President Reagan's reaffirmation of U.S. support for Britain in the Falkland Islands crisis.

The newspaper Cronica said the ruling Argentine junta is expected to file a note protesting "the political activities carried out in recent weeks" by Shlaudeman.

Cronica said the ambassador meddled in internal Argentine political affairs by holding meetings with numerous Argentine political, labor and business leaders.

A duty officer at the U.S. Embassy said he could not comment on the report.

European Aid for Argentina Sought

From Reuters

MADRID—A delegation of senior Venezuelan officials, politicians and labor leaders arrived here Sunday on the first stop of a European tour to seek support for Argentina in the Falklands conflict.

The delegation, headed by a presidential secretary, Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, will spend three days in Madrid, meeting with King Juan Carlos I, Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo and Socialist opposition leader Felipe Gonzalez. After Spain, the delegation plans to visit West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy and the Vatican.

Troops 'Spooning' on Canberra —2,000 of Ship's Utensils Gone

LONDON (UPI)—More than 2,000 spoons from the restaurants of the luxury liner Canberra are "missing in action"—taken as souvenirs by British troops on board the ship in the South Atlantic, the Sunday Times of London reported.

A dispatch from the Canberra said military authorities last Tuesday discovered that 444 soup spoons, 502 dessert spoons and 187 teaspoons were missing.

They were "all clearly marked P & O," for the ship's owner, the P & O Steam Navigation Co.

The authorities announced an amnesty, during which the spoons could be turned in without penalty, but by Friday more than 2,000 were gone, the report said.

The 43,975-ton Canberra is carrying the main British assault force of 2,500 Royal Marines and paratroopers.

Los Angeles Times

British, Argentines Operate Cautiously

By DIAL TORGERSON, *Times Staff Writer*

BUENOS AIRES—Britain and Argentina took careful measure of one another Tuesday in the stormy seas off the Falkland Islands, campaigning—as an Argentine general said of his own side—with "much prudence."

"You should recall," Gen. Mario Benjamin Menendez said in a radio interview, "that Argentina has up till now proceeded with much prudence."

He accused the British of even more. They are avoiding military targets and attacking civilian supply ships and "installations belonging to the civilian populace," Menendez told a radio interviewer.

Menendez, the military governor of the Falkland Islands, called the Malvinas here, said the Argentine air force is prepared to attack the British fleet whenever it can. Argentina is believed to have about 100 warplanes, having lost about 20 since the Falklands crisis began with the Argentine invasion of the islands more than six weeks ago.

Ships Approach at Night

"The British bring their ships in close to the islands at night and then retire them swiftly before the arrival of Argentine planes," a military source was quoted as saying here.

Argentine air force and navy planes are based on the mainland at a distance of about 450 miles from the scene of the fighting, about the limit of their range. In addition to fighter-bombers, the Argentines also have more than a score of Mirage fighters twice as fast—but not as maneuverable—as the Sea Harrier jets that defend the British task force.

Menendez said the islands are enduring typical winter weather, with "enough wind." The virtually treeless islands have been swept by almost endless gales as the southern winter begins. But, he said, "We are in perfect condition. The tension is greater in Buenos Aires than here."

In related developments:

—Guillermo Murchison, leader of the Anglo-American community in Buenos Aires, asked President Leopoldo F. Galtieri to arrange a cease-fire to evacuate children from the islands. He forwarded a similar request by cable to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "they call themselves—living on the islands.

—In London, a Falkland official said he believes that Argentina has set up a detention center for islanders who expressed opposition to Argentina's occupation.

John Cheek, an elected member of the Falklands legislature who was in Britain when Argentina seized the islands April 2, said he was given this impression by a letter from his father, who is still on the islands.

Soviets Reportedly Halt Grain Buying

LONDON (AP)—The Soviet Union has temporarily stopped buying grain from Argentina, possibly as a result of the Falkland's crisis, the British Broadcasting Crop. said Tuesday.

Less than half of this year's expected grain contracts have been signed by the Kremlin, the BBC said. The Soviet Union is Argentina's largest buyer of grain. A report on the BBC's World Service network said one reason for the lull in Soviet grain purchases could be the cancellation by Lloyd's of London, the international insurance underwriters, of war risk coverage on any ships trading with Argentina or selling in the South Atlantic.

Cancellation of the coverage takes effect May 27.

The BBC said half of the Soviet Union's imports of grain are handled by international shipping and would therefore be insured by Lloyd's.

Another possible reason for the lull could be that the Soviet Union is deliberately staying out of the grain market "to force Argentine prices down," the report speculated.

The BBC said Moscow is eager to pay for its grain by credit and is turning to the United States instead of Argentina.

In Washington, an Agriculture Department expert said it is true that the Soviet Union has not bought siginificant amounts of grain from Argentina since January.

James Parker of the department's foreign agriculture service added, however, that the soviets also have not bought any grain from the United States for two months.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1982

Crisis in the Falklands: The British Fleet Is Grouping for Battle

SHIPS SAID TO MOVE TO NEW FORMATION

Chief of British Fleet Reported to Be Gathering His Force for a Possible Attack

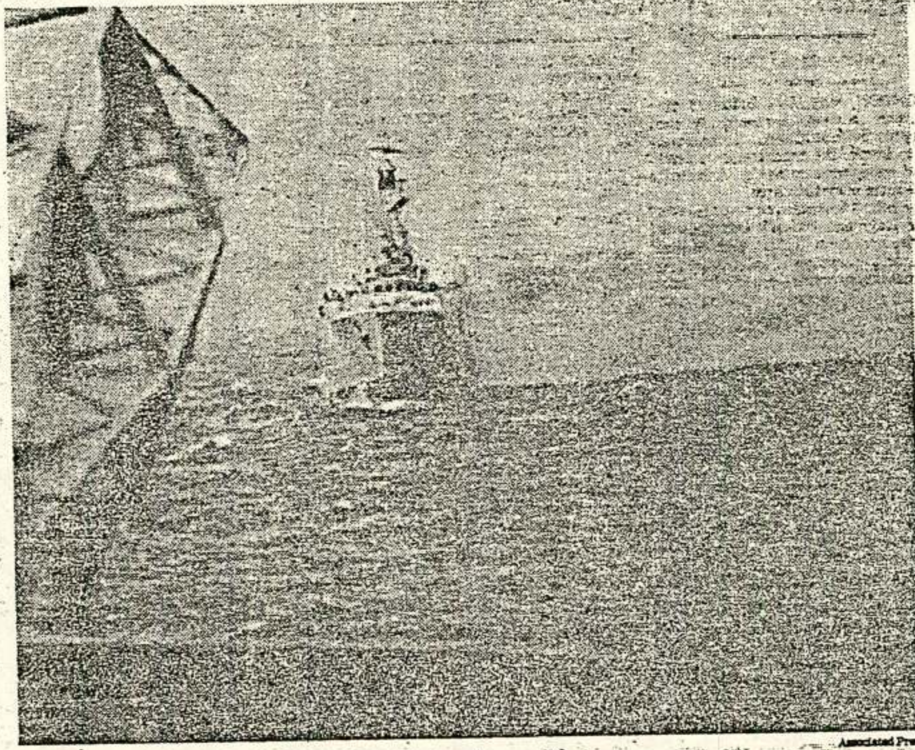
By R. W. APPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 18 — Britain's battle fleet has begun to move into assault formation in the South Atlantic for a possible attack on the Argentine-held Falkland Islands, military sources reported tonight.

The sources said that Rear Adm. John F. Woodward, the task force commander, was gathering his ships into one group, with the amphibious assault ships Fearless and Intrepid and smaller logistical landing craft positioned for an attack on the Falklands.

Once the maneuever has been completed, the British force will be prepared to launch a large- or small-scale invasion if the word is given by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Brian Hanrahan of the British Broadcasting Corporation reported from Admiral Woodward's flagship, the aircraft carrier Hermes, that more Harrier jet fighters had been taken on board. About 15 of the planes, badly needed to counterbalance Argentine air strength, were rushed from Britain on a converted container ship, the Atlantic Conveyor.



Associated Press

Official British photo shows two Royal Navy frigates bombarding South Georgia Island with 4.5-inch guns during the British reoccupation of the island on April 25. The photo was taken from aboard a destroyer.

Mrs. Thatcher, answering questions this afternoon in the House of Commons, said she expected a reply from Argentina "within a day or so" to what is described in official circles here as a "take-it-or-leave-it" formulation of the British proposal for resolving the conflict peacefully.

Proposal Transmitted at U.N.

It was passed to the Argentines on Monday by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary General, to whom it had been outlined by Sir Anthony Parson's, Britain's representative at the United Nations.

"Argentina is trying to spin out negotiations," the Prime Minister declared. "No military action can be held up in any way. To do so would be to give notice to the dictator." She was referring to Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the Argentine President.

Mrs. Thatcher granted an impassioned request from the leader of the opposition Labor party, Michael Foot, for a sixth emergency debate on the Falklands later this week. But she dismissed as constitutionally and practically unacceptable his demand that the House as a whole be given a chance to judge the Argentine response to Britain's negotiating terms before any new military action was ordered.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the Commons "would not flinch from a settlement by force" of the Falklands dispute.

When a Labor Member of Parliament suggested that Mrs. Thatcher might seek a face-to-face meeting with General Galtieri in a last attempt to avoid a full-scale armed conflict with Argentina, she replied with a smile: "I'm a very merciful person. The answer is no, sir."

Senior Government officials made it clear that, from the British point of view, the biggest problem in the search for a peaceful settlement was not any specific issue but the Cabinet's general lack of faith in the good will and honesty of the Argentine junta. Mrs. Thatcher was said to doubt that any undertaking given by the junta could be safely relied upon.

She alluded to this feeling in the House, remarking that in six weeks of negotiations there had been "no sign" of Argentine willingness to conform with the requirements of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 502, which called upon Buenos Aires to pull its troops out of the islands, which they seized on April 2.

The Cabinet met this morning in an emergency session, following a 90-minute meeting of the inner war Cabinet. Mrs. Thatcher and her ministers were reported to have reviewed such matters as the British order of battle, the weather in the South Atlantic and other factors that will influence the timing of any military move to oust the Argentines. The emphasis, participants said, was entirely on the military side.

An Atmosphere of Climax

"The whole atmosphere is one of climax," one of the Prime Minister's aides asserted. An invasion will be ordered, he added, "when we are ready."

A few analysts suggested that Mrs. Thatcher's public comments and the private amplifications by her aides constituted part of a war of nerves aimed at forcing the Argentines to give ground in the peace talks in New York. They compared what they described as her tactics of "brinkmanship" to those of the Argentine air force commander, Gen. Basilio Lami Dozo, who today threatened a large-scale air attack on the British fleet by his big force of land-based jet fighter-bombers.

But those holding that view were in a decided minority. Most politicians and most commentators took the Prime Minister at face value when she told the Commons, "Our determination remains absolute."

For the second day running, there were no reports of significant military action in the combat zone. The Ministry of Defense said only that a Sea King helicopter had ditched in the sea after a mechanical failure. The crew was said to have survived without injury.

There were suspicions, however, that the ministry was withholding information on the fleet's activities and refusing to clear dispatches of correspondents on the Hermes and the Invincible, another aircraft carrier.

Mrs. Thatcher increased such speculation when she said, without explanation, that while awaiting further developments at the United Nations, "we are meanwhile increasing the military pressure on the Argentines."

The ministry had no comment on the reports of Admiral Woodward's redeployment of his ships. It almost never confirms such moves.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,
Thursday, May 20, 1982 31

Britain Ponders Invasion Strategy For the Falklands

Thatcher Says Latest Proposal From Argentina Leaves 'Big Gap' Between 2 Sides

By FREDERICK KEMPE
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

LONDON—As peace hopes faded yesterday, debate in Britain over the Falklands conflict switched to how and when the task force should assault the islands, eclipsing earlier discussions of whether an attack would take place.

"I am afraid it doesn't look very encouraging," Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said upon receiving a preliminary synopsis of what may well be the final Argentine peace plans. Argentina's proposals still left "a big gap" between the two sides, she acknowledged.

Her gloomy appraisal of the negotiating progress came as the United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar said that his peace initiative was in its final hours and that it remained "very active." But UN Security Council sources, who didn't want to be identified, said the secretary-general had already conceded failure.

In off-the-record briefings, British officials previously have steered reporters away from writing about an imminent British invasion of the Falklands. But they now fall tellingly silent when asked about military plans.

Should the invasion come, British defense sources don't believe the outnumbered 4,000-troop task force will try to oust the 9,000 to 10,000 Argentine troops on the Falklands with a massive, single assault. Rather, they expect a more complex military operation.

Secret Landings Expected

"You're not going to see Royal marines storming the beaches of Port Stanley (the capital and most heavily defended and populated area on the Falklands)," one defense analyst said. "Secret landings and limited actions, like that at Pebble Island, will be more likely."

British commando teams last weekend landed on Pebble Island, located in West Falkland, and blew up an ammunition dump, radar equipment and 11 planes before returning safely back to their ships.

"The idea is to use minimum force and suffer a minimum of casualties," one British official said, "but we will do whatever we feel is necessary to regain the islands."

In Buenos Aires yesterday, Argentina's Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a communique saying British Harrier jets bombed positions outside Port Stanley in the day's only reported fighting.

Prime Minister Thatcher's five-member war cabinet is believed to have decided against maintaining a lengthy military blockade of the islands, which would be engineered to cut off Argentine supplies and sap troop morale.

First, keeping the task force in the wintry waters of the South Atlantic for too long poses logistical problems and puts increasing strain on the ships' crews and airmen. Moreover, British officials believe the Argentine junta is so committed to keeping the islands that it won't withdraw troops unless they are militarily forced off the Falklands.

Bridgehead Strategy

The best military strategy, according to one defense analyst, would be to establish one or more bridgeheads on the Falkland Islands somewhere away from the heavily defended areas of Port Stanley and Port Darwin.

Defense sources say that once such bridgeheads are established, the task force wouldn't be under such great time pressure to retake the islands. Moreover, the optimum moment for repossessing the islands mightn't come at least for another week, when the Queen Elizabeth II arrives with another 3,000 troops.

The great unknown factor remains just how successfully Argentina will be able to resist any British assault.

London newspapers have quoted military sources as saying that Britain's battle fleet of at least 50 ships is in assault formation around the islands.

The Defense Ministry also requisitioned two more merchant ships, bringing to 43 the number of merchant ships currently serving in the 75-vessel task force that is en route from Britain to the South Atlantic.

In addition, Britain has escalated the propaganda war by requisitioning a British Broadcasting Corp. transmitter on Ascension Island, which it will use to beam a twice-daily Spanish program to Argentine troops on the Falklands.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1982

Task for British: How to Offset Inferior Numbers

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 18 — Despite the British task force's numerical inferiority in men and aircraft, senior defense sources are confident that the forces can establish beachheads on East Falkland Island and battle the Argentine garrison on even terms.

Military Analysis

The object of the operation, as summarized by one source, is to "get ashore, build up and make them come to us."

The British forces will be outnumbered by more than three to one in manpower and, if the Argentine air force makes a maximum effort, by about seven to three in the air, if the 17 additional Harriers on the container ship Atlantic Conveyor have been deployed.

The military rule of thumb is that an attacking force, to be successful, should have a superiority of at least three to one at the point of attack. The fact that the British are inferior in numbers argues powerfully for adoption of the strategy of indirect approach, meaning landings well away from the main concentrations of Argentine troops.

British planners expect that they will be able to establish local superiority in numbers and weapons over Argentine forces that are drawn out of their positions to repel them. This is the essence of the attack plans.

Perils of Delay

Forecasts for the timing of the operation are understandably vague. But the task force is now deployed for a landing operation and it is understood that the military chiefs have told the Cabinet that delay would invite a renewal of attacks by the Argentine Air Force.

The site of the landings, while unknown, are suggested by the number of beaches available and their proximity to the main Argentine force of four battalions and supporting troops dug in around Stanley. Because of the British inferiority in numbers no headlong attack on the 5,000 or more troops there is contemplated.

Military analysts are reasonably sure that the ships assigned to the landing will take up their stations beyond the horizon at night and move to positions just offshore before dawn. Helicopters and landing craft would deliver the troops at first light, covered by Harriers and helicopter gunships.

The Fearless and the Intrepid, the task force's two assault ships, will be the key vessels in the operation. Landing craft, each carrying about 100 men, will leave the two ships a few minutes before the first troop-carrying helicopters depart from the carriers and support ships. The object will be to strike simultaneously from both the air and the sea.

Possible Landing Points

Discussions of landing points focus on two relatively close to Port Stanley. One is in Rookery Bay, about eight miles east of the capital, where there are wide sandy beaches and no hills to provide cover for the defenders. Another, at Sparrow Cove near Cape Pembroke, is closer to the capital but analysts believe it may have been mined by the Argentines. A third landing area, more distant, is northeast of the capital on the coast between Mt. Low and Mengeary Point.

The task force is expected to make at least one diversionary landing intended to pull part of the garrison out of defensive positions and expose it to strafing by the Harriers and shelling from the fleet's 4.5 inch guns. One point under discussion is the shore of Fitzroy Basin, 10 miles southwest of Port Stanley.

British sources emphasized that although that there are plenty of landing places for small parties, there are fewer for the battalion-sized operations that are envisaged.

Unloading of Heavy Equipment

Rear Adm. John F. Woodward at the moment has under command 40 and 42 Commandos, the Third Battalion the Parachute Regiment, the 29th Commando Regiment of the Royal Artillery and armored reconnaissance units drawn from two armored cavalry regiments. These units total about 3,000 troops, all of them well-trained and, reportedly, anxious to get off the ships that have been their homes for six weeks and come to grips with the enemy.

Essential to success will be the rapid unloading of the heavy equipment, trucks, ammunition, fuel and spare parts, from the four logistic landing ships. Analysts say that Chinook helicopters will be used to ferry specialized weapons ashore. These include light, stripped-down 105-millimeter guns, one battery of Rapier anti-aircraft missiles and the newly introduced Blindfire all-weather radar to work with the Rapiers and light anti-aircraft guns.

During the planning stage of the campaign, it is known that the British task force command weighed the possibility of a landing in strength in the Fox Bay area of West Falkland Island, which is held by about 1,500 Argentine troops. While this is still an option, military and political reasons at the moment appear to rule it out.

Removal of Mines on Beaches

The military objection to such an approach is that the Argentine troops there are already cut off from the remainder of the occupation force, which is on East Falkland Island and, in view of the British Navy's ability to patrol the sound separating the two islands, are unlikely to attempt to rejoin and reinforce the rest of the garrison.

The political reasoning is that a British presence on West Falkland Island would have little impact on the attitude of the Argentine Government toward a negotiated settlement.

One preliminary to the landings will be the removal of mines from the designated beaches by men of the Special Boat Squadron. This is likely to take place in the night hours before the landings by specialists swimming ashore from inflatable canoes. The S.B.S. has carried out this type of operation on beaches in northern Norway.

Experienced officers, while describing the operational plan as sound and workable, are quick to concede that, as always in war, plans can go wrong. Analysts here add that the plan appears to count on a minimum of resistance by the Argentine Air Force and Navy, which could be dangerous assumption.

Interference by Argentine bombers and fighter-bombers in force on the first day and in reasonably good weather could delay the buildup and pin down the first units ashore. The Argentine Navy's three remaining submarines could emerge from hiding and attack the Hermes and Invincible, the two carriers that are the core of the task force. With either or both disabled or sunk, the Harriers would have no platforms, no spare parts and no fuel until more was brought in by sea. The fighters and the helicopters would be exposed to Argentine attack on hurriedly improvised grass trips.

The British are reasonably sure that in the event of successful landings Argentina will not be able to reinforce the garrison with troops from the mainland. Air reinforcement would be too risky in view of the British fleet's surface-to-air missiles and the probable deployment of Rapier missiles ashore. Sea reinforcement would be too slow and would have to run the gauntlet of British submarines that are believed to be on station west of the islands.

Argentines Say Britain Hardens Attitude in Talks

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 18 — Argentine officials said today that Britain had become tougher in the United Nations talks.

"The British attitude gets tougher each time," Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Méndez said as he left the Foreign Ministry today to met with the ruling three-man junta at Air Force headquarters.

There was no official public response to Britain's latest proposal, but Argentine officials indicated parts of it would be rejected in a response being given to United Nation Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar tonight. One of those parts, they said, was a British demand that the United States guarantee any agreement.

The Foreign Ministry also issued a statement today condemning the seven-day extension of trade sanctions against Argentina by the European Economic Community as "coercive measures" that support Britain "in the prosecution of its colonialist goals."

The statement said the Government "values and appreciates" those European countries that, "faithful to their tradition and public opinion, were able to lessen the extent of the measures," a clear allusion to Ireland and Italy.

Privately, Government officials said that the limitation of the extension of trade sanctions to one week was a setback for Britain. They were heartened by the prospect that Britain might not be able to get another extension of the measures, which until now have had little effect but are likely to have more as weeks pass by.

Adm. Jorge Isaac Anaya, commander of the navy, left after the junta meeting this afternoon for what he called "an operational visit" to the Comandante Espora Naval Airbase near Bahía Blanca, 400 miles south of here. It is the navy's main airbase.

Brig. Basilio Lami Dozo, commander of the air force, made a quick inspection visit last Monday to Comodoro Rivadavia, 1,100 miles south of here and the main air supply point for the Falklands. He said upon his return that the air force, which has largely held back in the fighting with the British fleet, has "everything ready" and "we are awaiting any event."

In his first public threat of a major air attack against the fleet, the air force officer said: "The first thing we have to do is perfectly locate them and have them within range of all the arms systems we have. As soon as this happens, we will launch a massive attack."

A Foreign Ministry official said today, "This is the last scene of the act." Two Foreign Ministry officials said the consensus within the Government is that the British will invade the islands "today or tomorrow."

"The British are still stiff in the negotiations," said a senior spokesman. "They do not want an agreement. They want to fight."

Government officials were angry at what they saw as a "propaganda ploy" by the British to present their proposal as final, making Argentina look like the obstructionist if it rejected it and heavier fighting broke out.

Some officials said that Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar had been "overwhelmed" by the British, suggesting that London had pushed him into passing on their plan in total to the Argentines. Until now, they said, all positions were held in the hands of Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, so there would be no British plan to accept or reject but a more palatable United Nations plan to compromise with.

Crisis in the Falklands: A 'Massive Attack' Against British Is Promised

Argentines Says Planes Are Set to Strike

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER
Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 20 — Argentine military officers said today that the nation's air force was poised to launch a heavy counterattack in the event of any British invasion of the Falkland Islands.

They said that the air force had been largely held in reserve until now, with the military Government pursuing a defensive strategy of saving its military forces while holding out for a diplomatic settlement.

But, the officers said, if the British invade, Argentina is prepared to use — and sacrifice, if need be — its numerically superior air force to defend the islands that Argentine forces took on April 2.

The officers said Argentine control of the air over the islands would be necessary to enable the forces there to resist any British assault.

'Massive Attack' Promised

As it appeared earlier this week that mediation efforts at the United Nations were nearing collapse, some remarks on Argentine military strategy were made by Brig. Basilio Lami Dozo, Commander in Chief of the air force. He said Tuesday that "we will launch a massive attack" against any invading force once it comes "within range of all the armed systems we have."

One Western military source said that about 20 Argentine pilots had signed up for missions aimed at trying to immobilize one of the two British aircraft carriers, the Hermes or the Invincible.

The number of Argentine troops deployed on the Falkland Islands is generally estimated here at 10,000. But some Western and Argentine sources said the total might be as many as 14,000.

They are reportedly deployed at likely landing beaches and around the capital of Stanley. In addition to antiaircraft batteries, Argentine officers said, the troops have artillery and mortars. They said some beach approaches had been mined.

40 Copters on Islands

The officers noted that it would be impossible to protect the entire archipelago, which includes some 20 islands and covers 4,700 square miles. But, they said, some 40 helicopters are based on the islands to give added troop mobility to meet any British landing attempt.

They said also that the forces on the islands had turboprop Pucará's, an Argentine-built counterinsurgency plane, that would be used to strafe and bomb the British at their beachheads.

According to Western analysts, the planes are slow but are highly effective for that type of low-flying operation. Argentina had 45 of the planes before the operations began, some of which have been destroyed in British raids.

They would be no match, however, for the British fleet's carrier-launched Harriers, the analysts said.

The importance of air superiority to the ground fighting was underlined by the Argentine commander on the islands, Gen. Mario Benjamin Menéndez, in a radio interview Tuesday.

'No Doubt' of Counterattack

He sought to allay growing uneasiness that the air force might continue holding back after a British invasion, saying "there is no doubt" the air force would mount a major counterattack.

"Our air force, if it wants and feels the necessity, is in perfect condition to act against enemy airplanes and give the necessary protection, so that air supply can be carried out," he said.

Before the fighting began, the key planes, shared among the air force and the navy, were 79 American-built A-4 attack fighters, 21 French-made Mirages, 3 fighter bombers, 5 French-made Super Etendard fighters, 9 British-made Canberra bombers, and 26 Daggers, an Israeli-modified version of the Mirage 5.

Argentina has reported the loss of five of these planes in fighting so far. This would leave a total of 135 fighters and bombers, a force that far outnumbers the highly maneuverable Harriers.

The Argentine Air Force has flown harassing missions against the British fleet, veering away before coming in range of its antiaircraft missiles. Until now, however, the fleet has mostly been too far east of the islands to be within the comfortable combat range of its planes.

However, the air force has wrecked one destroyer, the Sheffield, with a missile attack; the vessel sank later while being towed. The air force has also damaged other ships.

Gap in System Filled

The combat range of the Argentine warplanes averages around 400 miles. That would bring the islands and any British landing party within range of Argentina's mainland air bases, particularly the one at Rio Gallegos in the far south.

Argentina has reportedly filled an important gap in its air defense system with an emergency order of several Brazilian-made EMB-111 Bandeirante American patrol planes, which are loaded with radar gear. This is said to have allowed the Argentine forces to pinpoint the British fleet from almost 100 miles away.

It was unclear where Argentina's fleet is. Its British-made World War II aircraft carrier, the Veinticinco de Mayo, and some of its other ships have reportedly moved out of Puerto Belgrano, the main navy base about 400 miles south of here, and taken up battle stations.

But many military analysts here said that the difference between defeat and victory may depend on the fighting infantryman. Most of Argentina's troops on the islands are draftees with only several months in service. The commanders have mixed in more seasoned troops through a partial call-up of reserves.

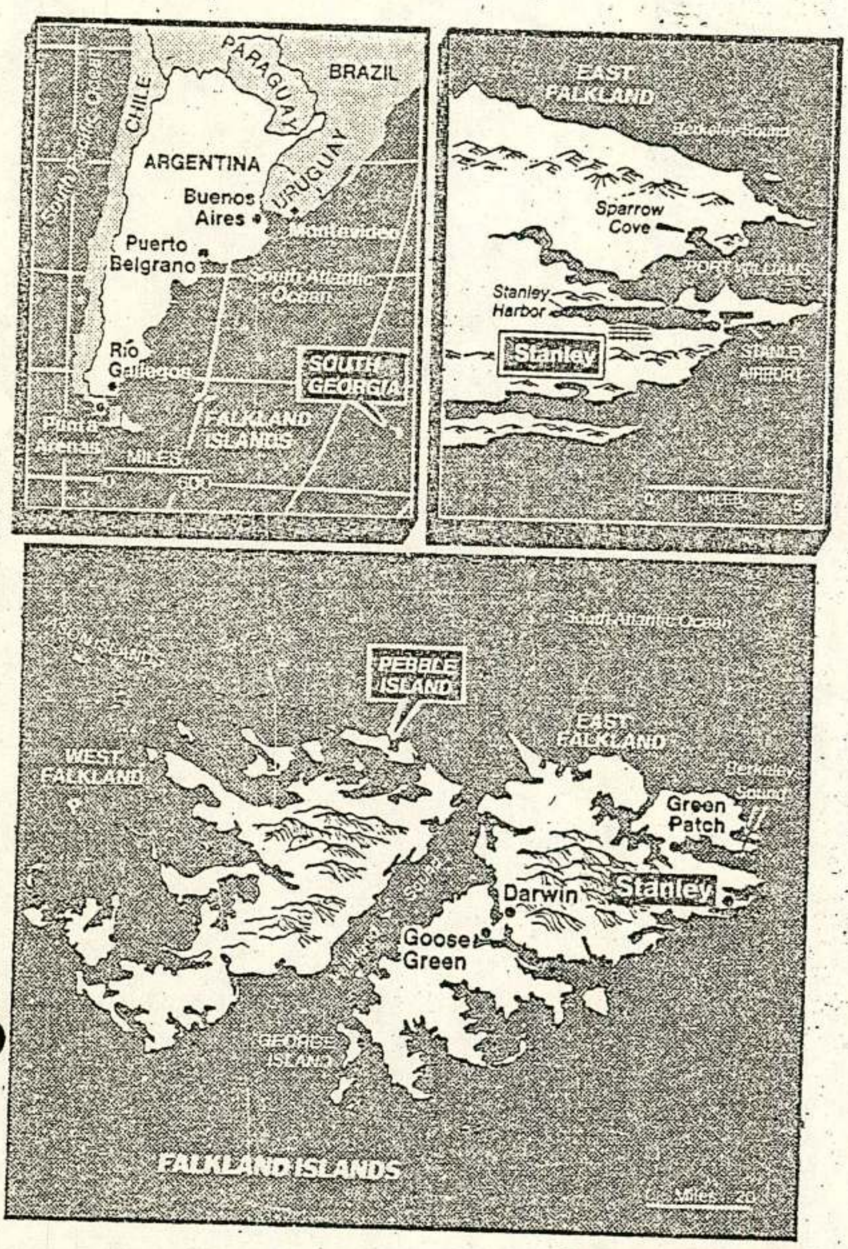
Western military analysts said that the Argentine armed forces were well led. They said, however, that the fighting ability of the draftees remained in question, particularly since the Argentine Army has not fought a major war in the 20th century.



United Press International

At the urging of their leader, Isabel Martinez de Perón, who is in exile in Spain, members of the Peronist party attended a memorial mass Wednesday in Buenos Aires for the war dead in the Falkland Islands conflict.

British Planners Said to Favor Direct Assault



The New York Times/May 21, 1982

The British, buoyed by ease of their capture of South Georgia last month and their attack on Pebble Island, are said to plan frontal assault on Stanley.

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 20 — A British military source said today that Britain had decided, in a shift of strategy, to strike at the main Argentine military positions on the Falkland Islands.

The positions are at Stanley, the principal settlement, and at its airfield.

The informant said the British had decided to shift from a strategy of staging a number of small-scale landings because that tactic might dissipate the limited combat strength of the task force off the Falklands.

There could be several explanations of why the British are discussing their strategy now. One might be that there have been disagreements between the military and the civilian politicians on how to carry it out. Another might be that they are seeking to mislead Argentina — some other military sources have been quoted today as asserting that there would be hit-and-run raids.

However, the informant said British thinking had changed on the basis of intelligence estimates of earlier operations in the campaign to regain the Falklands, which were seized by Argentina on April 2.

Because of those estimates, the British were said to believe that their troops might not face determined opposition in landing by helicopter and landing craft. They cited the recapture last month of South Georgia Island, where Argentine marines surrendered after minimal resistance, and the relative ease with which 12 four-man teams of the Special Air Service destroyed an ammunition

Continued on Page A12, Column 1

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
AN INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Britain sees no diplomatic solution on Falklands; Argentine military leaders say: 'We are prepared'

Commander expects attacks at five sites, says air forces evenly matched

By James Nelson Goodsell
Latin America correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Buenos Aires

"We are prepared. We are waiting."

With those words Wednesday, Argentina's military commander on the Falkland Islands, Gen. Mario Benjamín Menéndez, again challenged the British task force in the South Atlantic in effect to launch a landing.

Top Argentine military fully expect the British to land before the weekend.

They believe they know where the British will land, the sort of bombardment they can expect, and what sort of aerial and naval protection the British will provide for the landing forces.

"Instead of concentrating on one landing site," a top Argentine military intelligence official said, "they will land at five spots."

He refused to specify the five sites – but it was presumed in other military circles here that one would be Pebble Island, which Argentines call Isla de Borbón. British commandos landed on that island, north of West Falkland Island, May 15 to knock out an airstrip and ammunition dump.

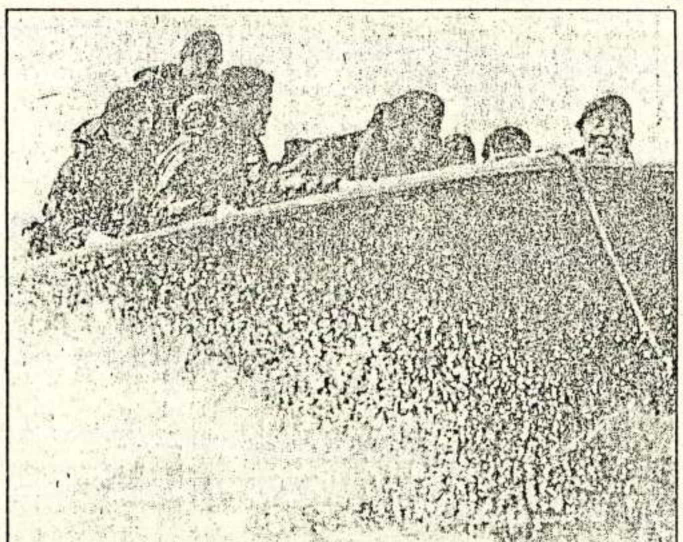
One Argentine military source says some of the commandos who landed last weekend may have remained, but the main force returned to the British task force.

It is thought here that the British will concentrate on West Falkland, which the Argentines call Gran Malvina – a less inhabited island than East Falkland, which Argentines call Soldedad.

Britain has apparently ruled out a direct assault on the beaches of Port Stanley, the Falklands capital, according to sources in London. There is, however, strong expectation in Argentine military circles that the British will seek to take Port Stanley, where General Menéndez has his headquarters.

Argentina's estimated 10,000 troops are scattered throughout the Falklands archipelago, but the heaviest concentration is on

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Britain's Royal Marines practice for what now seems almost certain — warfare UPI photo

Britain embarks on its most dangerous foreign policy strategy since Suez

By David K. Willis
Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

London

For the moment at least, the talking is over, and force is replacing diplomacy. Britain says it has no choice.

In dramatic scenes in the House of Commons chamber in London, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has signaled an end to seven weeks of intense worldwide negotiations, and a period of open naval, land, and air warfare in the South Atlantic.

Britain is now finally launched on its most dangerous foreign policy strategy since its attempted invasion of Suez in 1956 and one of its riskiest since World War II, taking place at the end of a supply line reaching 8,000 miles to the other end of the world.

Also caught up in the escalating crisis is the NATO alliance, the United States and its relations with Latin America, potential Soviet gains there, and the prayers for peace of millions of people around the Earth.

Britain faces the prospect of losses of men that could prove to be heavy, but insists that its cause is just, and as Mrs. Thatcher puts it, that its forces are defending democracy and freedom.

In ringing terms, the Prime Minister gave notice to Buenos Aires May 20 that the patience of her government was at an end. Essentially, she used her speech in the House, which opened a general debate on the Falklands, to give Britain's rationale for launching an invasion to regain the islands.

Seven sets of peace proposals since April 2, she said, had revealed an Argentina guilty of "obduracy," "deception," "delay," and "procrastination."

Using some of the toughest language heard so far in London, she said any further talks would show that Argentina would simply be using the same tactics.

In a move immediately challenged by opposition speakers, she said flatly that Britain had withdrawn all concessions made so far. Argentina, she added, had not only rejected the latest British proposals of

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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR - Mayo 21

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From page 1

Attacks expected

East Falkland. It is there that the Argentines expect the stiffest fighting if the British land.

These fresh Argentine intelligence estimates also take into account the problems to be faced by Argentine troops. There are three admitted difficulties:

- Although Argentina has built up sizable stockpiles of food, equipment, and ammunition for its troops on the islands, British sea attacks from units of the Royal Navy and bombing raids by Harrier jets and Vulcan bombers have done considerable damage this month. No supply ships have run the British blockade of the island since the Isla de los Estados got through soon after the blockade was imposed.

- Roads on the islands are few and far between – a total of 17 kilometers existed when the Argentines invaded April 2, although several times that number have been laid down since. Most provisioning has been done by air through the seven weeks of Argentine occupation of the islands to the outlying posts. But recent British raids, such as the May 15 attack at Pebble Island, destroyed a number of interisland transport planes.

- Argentina's well-equipped Air Force does not have the long-range capability, much less the steady aerial refueling needed, to maintain regular bombing and strafing runs from the mainland to the islands.

Moreover, many of the planes at Port Stanley and Port Darwin airfields have been destroyed in British raids, and the runways at both sites have been seriously damaged. The Argentines have to use mainland air bases, such as the key facility at Río Gallegos, to reach the British fleet around the Falklands.

These are not insurmountable obstacles in Argentina's defense of its entrenched positions on the islands. But they will be problems for General Menéndez.

Argentines, moreover, believe Britain's task force – and its commandos and landing forces – will have problems that at least partially offset Argentina's difficulties.

Chief among the British problems is the distance that separates the British fleet from its home bases, and even the 4,000 miles between the fleet and Ascension Island, which the British are using as a staging area.

But this problem is being partially offset this week with the arrival of the cruise liner Canberra, with 2,500 fresh British troops, and the addition of 20 Sea Harrier jets, which were brought out from Britain on container ships. The arrival of the Harriers augments the capability of the Royal Air Force – and Argentine officials here in Buenos Aires said Wednesday that this evens up to some extent the aerial capacity of the two nations.

> Arrival of 20 Sea Harriers augments Britain's air capability. Argentine officials say this evens up to some extent the aerial capacity of the two nations.

"We still maintain air superiority," an Argentine Air Force intelligence chief said late Wednesday, "but the Harriers are effective craft, and their presence in the vicinity of the islands will clearly be an advantage to the British."

From page 1

Dangerous strategy

May 17, but had actually hardened its demands.

The Prime Minister went even further. She cast strong doubt over the newest efforts of UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to bridge the gap between the two sides by offering an aide-mémoire listing points of agreement and ways of bridging areas of disagreement.

Several of the points made, she said, did not reflect either British or Argentine views with complete accuracy.

The first hint of the Thatcher government's adamant stand came when it broke with diplomatic practice and published May 20 its own latest proposals along with Argentina's reply, just received here. The unusual publication had three major aims:

1. To underscore London's almost complete distrust of the Argentine junta.
2. To retain as much support around the world as possible for Britain, given its clear intention of resorting to military force.
3. To persuade the British public here at home that the government had done all it could to try for peace.

By ending her opening statement to the House with the words that "difficult days" lay ahead, she left Britain convinced that it was only a matter of hours before news would come of a British naval and marine assault on the West Falkland Island.

While her fighting words were greeted with cheers by Conservative members, Labour opposition leader Michael Foot urged her or Foreign Secretary Francis Pym to fly immediately to New York to talk to Pérez de Cuéllar. Parliamentary leader of the Social Democrats, David Owen, himself a former Labour foreign secretary, questioned the withdrawal of all British concessions, and argued that Mrs. Thatcher should allow the Argentines to accept them under force of arms.

Left-wing worries came from Labour member of Parliament from Pontypool, Wales, Leo Abse, who said Britain would not be able to retain control of the islands indefinitely. Mrs. Thatcher, he said, should show more patience.

Mrs. Thatcher insisted she had not compromised basic principles in her concessions before May 20. She had preserved the concepts that "aggression must not be allowed to succeed, international law must be upheld, sovereignty cannot be changed by invasion, and the liberty of the Falkland islanders must be restored."

Britain's prime minister said that Argentine terms were "manifestly impossible" for Britain to accept.

Britain's and Argentina's final offers

According to British and Argentine sources, the essence of the final offers that were spurned by each side was as follows:

The British offer: Argentine forces leave the Falklands within 14 days. British ships then would withdraw 150 nautical miles, and would pull back 300 miles when Argentine troops leave southern mainland bases. The United Nations would appoint an administrator who would rule through the islands' own legislative and executive councils. One additional representative would be appointed to each council to speak for the 20 or 30 Argentines who live on the islands. Talks would be held on the future of the islands, but the long-term future of the islands in no way is to be prejudged before these talks were completed. Argentina would not be permitted to flood the islands with its own settlers. A small UN force would be permitted to keep order and prevent another Argentine invasion. Britain rejects Argentine claims to South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

The Argentine offer: Simultaneous withdrawal of forces. Argentine claims to be upheld to South Georgia and South Sandwich. UN rule of the islands during the interim period — with Argentine, UN, and British flags flying — while talks are conducted on the future of the islands. Islanders and Argentines, would serve on an advisory committee. Maintain air and communications links between Argentina and the islands.

THE WASHINGTON POST, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1982

VIEWS

Stephen S. Rosenfeld

Why Did Thatcher Send the Fleet?

The British are, as Margaret Thatcher says, the aggrieved party, and they are democratic and a traditional ally. But regardless of how the Falklands crisis finally works out, it seems to me painful but unavoidable to ask if Thatcher has not managed it the wrong way.

Regardless? If the guns fall silent and the dispute is taken to a table, will not her method of bringing military pressure to bear be vindicated?

Politically perhaps. But the question will linger of whether she did what had to be done or went to military excess. In any event, the issue goes to the heart of almost every political dispute in which the United States is involved and for that reason alone it needs to be closely scanned.

The British view, reflecting conventional strategy, holds that sending the fleet and all the rest had a purpose: to tighten a tourniquet of pressure and give the necessary impact to British diplomacy.

It figures. How many times over the years have we Americans been invited to accept that a nation cannot win at the conference table what it loses on the battlefield. To justify its "rearming of America," and especially the expansion of the Navy, the administration regularly suggests that diplomacy is essentially the projection of available, respected military power. Jimmy Carter, one hears, neglected this truth; Ronald Reagan knows it well.

But there is a deeper truth, I think, and it is that no single simple formula can explain the strange and unpredictable chemistry between the means of conciliation and the means of force. Far from demonstrating the efficacy of military pressure, the Falklands affair seems to me to represent yet another of those recurring crises which show not a connection but a disharmony between the projection of military power and the achievement of the intended diplomatic result.

Consider these points:

1) The decision to dispatch the fleet could not have been taken more carelessly. Thatcher and Parliament, in a patriotic fever, whooped it through on the very day after the Argentines took the islands. Scarcely a soul gave thought to what was being set in train.

2) The very fact that the fleet had sailed slowed Britain in making the compromises that it had to make as the dismal weeks went by. Had the British made their compromises on some of the central issues while the fleet was still in Portsmouth, the Manchester Guardian, a lonely but clear voice, suggests, "Mr. Haig today might have been filling out his application for a Nobel peace prize."

3) Finally the fleet had to arrive, and to start shooting, and the resultant losses had a stiffening as well as a sobering effect, on both sides.

4) Sending and using the fleet, by inflaming Argentina, diminished what might have been the quieter but more reliable pressure of the sanctions and soon cost Britain the full company of its allies.

We have a passion for "lessons" and now conduct our post mortems even before there has been a mortem. But the lessons of the fleet's precipitate dispatch seem to me to rate central attention, whatever happens now.

Invasion Would Rewrite Falklands Script

By Jay Ross
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, May 18—With a British invasion of the Falkland Islands appearing imminent, Britain has now mobilized about 22,000 men in a task force of more than 70 ships strung out over the Atlantic Ocean at an estimated cost of more than half a billion dollars.

That means Britain is using 12 men and spending at least $275,000 for each of the 1,800 islanders in its undeclared war with Argentina to regain the islands seized more than six weeks ago.

All the indications today were that Britain was preparing to assault the islands soon unless a diplomatic settlement can be reached this week through the mediation of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A British invasion would change the nature of the war, testing the morale of the estimated 9,000 Argentine troops on the islands and at the same time making British forces more vulnerable to air attacks—since they would be less mobile than they are on the ships.

For the most part until now, Argentina, having control of the islands, has let Britain set the pace of the fighting. A British invasion, however, is likely to cause far more response because Argentine troops would be under direct threat.

Military analysts say there are numerous potential invasion sites, given the miles of unpatrolled coastline on the two main islands—whose total area is slightly smaller than Connecticut.

West Falkland provides a safer invasion route because there are believed to be only about 1,500 Argentine defenders on that island. It is within closer range of Argentina's land-based aircraft, however, and it is a long way from the eventual British target, the capital of Stanley on East Falkland. But a frontal assault on Stanley, where most of the Argentine force is based, could produce heavy casualties and be politically unacceptable in Britain unless a quick victory can be achieved.

The decision on where to attack could well depend upon the intelligence Rear Adm. Sandy Woodward, commander of the task force, has on the morale of the Argentine conscript Army after almost three weeks of intermittent bombardment and a blockade. There is widespread belief here that Woodward has landed special forces on the islands to carry out sabotage activities and test the will of the Argentines to fight Britain's better-trained, volunteer forces.

To recapture the islands, Britain has mounted its largest naval operation since World War II. There are at least 28 warships and auxiliaries in the task force and about 50 merchant ships, ranging in size from the 686-ton tugs Yorkshireman and Irishman to the 67,140-ton Queen Elizabeth 2, the world's largest luxury liner now converted into a troop ship carrying more than 3,000 soldiers.

The QE2, which left Britain six days ago, is still in the North Atlantic but there are about 4,500 royal marines, paratroops and commandos on task force ships in the immediate war zone.

The major warships in the fleet are two aircraft carriers, seven destroyers, five frigates and seven amphibious warfare craft, including two assault ships. There are also believed to be three submarines on patrol, but the Defense Ministry will not talk about that.

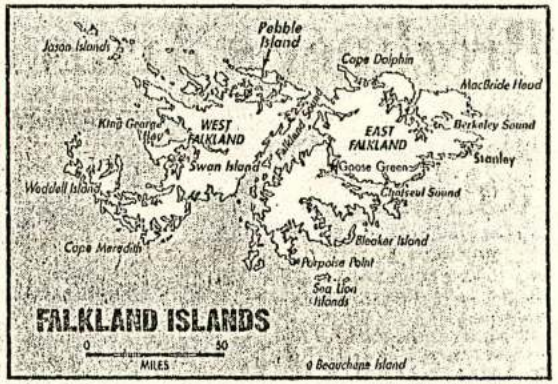
Air support is provided by an estimated 37 Harrier vertical-takeoff jets and about 35 helicopters, mainly used for transporting troops.

The Argentine Navy, now including an aircraft carrier, about 10 destroyers and three submarines, has hardly been heard from. The British task force has sunk the cruiser General Belgrano and badly damaged a surfaced submarine, disabling it. The Royal Navy, however, reportedly has not been able to locate Argentina's three other submarines.

The Argentines have great numerical superiority in the air, with more than 100 jet fighter-bombers. In their biggest success, a sea-skimming missile fired from a French-built fighter virtually destroyed the British destroyer Sheffield.

That incident brought home the fact that even though Argentina's Navy is heavily dependent on World War II ships, the war is testing a new generation of weapons.

The Argentine pilot who fired the French-made Exocet missile that sank the Sheffield, from a distance of perhaps 40 miles, doubtless saw the ship only as a blip on a radar screen, and probably did not know of his success.



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

The first combat firing of the Exocet has shaken some theories about nations like the United States maintaining large, costly but vulnerable surface fleets.

The British Sea Wolf missile is designed to combat the Exocet, but it has yet to be used in that capacity. It did have its first successful combat firing last week, however, downing two U.S.-built Argentine Skyhawk fighter-bombers. The Sea Wolf must be carefully controlled since it is designed to fire at any incoming missile or aircraft, enemy or friendly.

A third new weapon also had a successful debut. A British submarine fired two Tigerfish 1.5-ton wire-guided torpedoes to sink the Belgrano, a U.S. Navy cruiser in World War II.

Ironically, the British are having to contest some of their own weapons since the Argentine military is armed with British-built destroyers, missiles, helicopters and bombers. Past British arms sales to the military government have been criticized in Parliament since the Falklands invasion but the United States and France have also sold Argentina weapons.

Weather

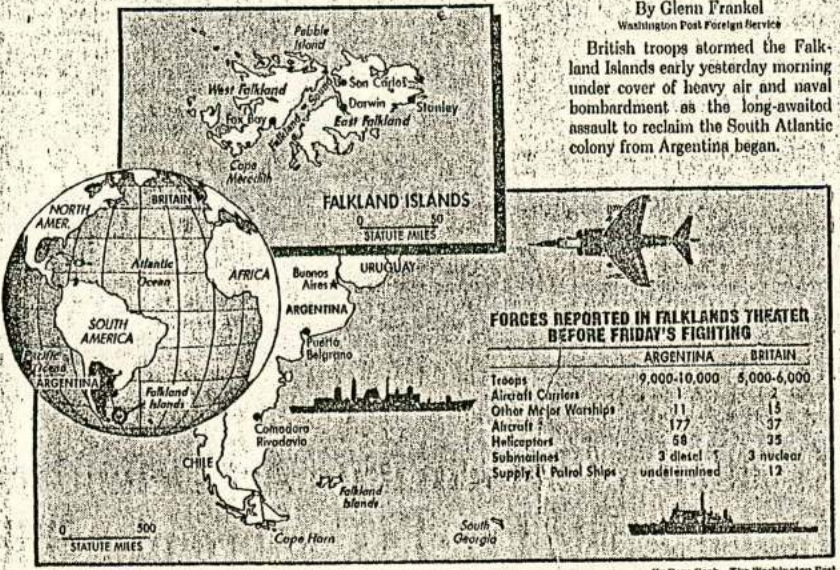
Today—Rain likely, high 68-73, low 55-60. The chance of rain is 60 percent through tonight. Sunday — Showers and thunderstorms likely, high 71-76. Yesterday — 4 p.m. AQI: 80; temp. range: 82-68. Details on Page B2.

The Washington Post

Index 164 Pages 12 Sections

105th Year ... No. 168 © 1982, The Washington Post Company SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1982 Higher in Areas Approximately 75 Miles From District of Columbia (See Box on A2) 25¢

British Launch Invasion of Falklands; Argentine Warplanes Counterattack



FORCES REPORTED IN FALKLANDS THEATER BEFORE FRIDAY'S FIGHTING

	ARGENTINA	BRITAIN
Troops	9,000-10,000	5,000-6,000
Aircraft Carriers	1	2
Other Major Warships	11	15
Aircraft	177	37
Helicopters	58	35
Submarines	3 diesel	3 nuclear
Supply & Patrol Ships	undetermined	12

By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

By Glenn Frankel
Washington Post Foreign Service

British troops stormed the Falkland Islands early yesterday morning under cover of heavy air and naval bombardment as the long-awaited assault to reclaim the South Atlantic colony from Argentina began.

About 2,500 Royal Marine commandos and paratroopers established what the British Defense Ministry called "a firm bridgehead" in four separate landings around the port of San Carlos in the Falkland Sound dividing the two main islands. Britain said the landings were unopposed.

Argentine warplanes counterattacked later, damaging five British warships in or near the Falkland Sound, according to the British. Argentina's military command said its forces "put out of action" eight British frigates. Of those, four suffered "great" damage and two "could have sunk," the military command said last night. It insisted earlier that the British had failed to secure a beachhead on the islands.

By Argentina's official count, Britain lost three Sea Harrier planes and two helicopters.

British Defense Secretary John Nott, in confirming that Argentine planes had hit five British warships, said two of them were damaged seriously. The only officially confirmed casualties were 21 British dead in a predawn helicopter crash that officials said was an accident. "There will have been [other] British casualties, but we have no details," Nott said.

The Defense Ministry said that British Sea Harriers had destroyed 17 Argentine warplanes and damaged another and that two Argentine helicopters were destroyed on the ground. Britain said it lost two helicopters and reported one Sea Harrier missing.

In Washington, the White House released a statement reiterating its pledge to "meet our commitments to Great Britain" but stressed that "there will be no involvement whatsoever of U.S. military personnel in the conflict in the South Atlantic."

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar suggested to an emergency meeting of the Security Council that both Britain and Argentina were to blame for the new outbreak of fighting following the collapse of his effort to achieve a diplomatic settlement of the dispute. The council took no action yesterday. Britain is expected to

See FALKLANDS, A12, Col. 4

'UNION JACK FLIES AGAIN'

Reuter

"Tonight the Union Jack flies again on the Falkland Islands. They did it by moonlight, silently and successfully."

With these words, Independent Television News correspondent Michael Nicholson last night gave Britain the first eyewitness account of the battle that began the British offensive to recapture the Falklands from Argentina.

"They landed in their thousands," he went on. "The first landing craft hit the beaches a little after 6:30 a.m. local time [EDT] and with black faces, heavily camouflaged, carrying enormous packs with mortars,

See WITNESS, A13, Col. 1

'They've Established Their Beachhead. We Can See Them Clearly'

WITNESS, From A1

rifles, machine guns, antitank rockets, all this strapped to their backs.

"They clambered down the rope netting at the side of the mother ship into their landing craft, which were queuing alongside these ships like taxis."

Nicholson said one of the company officers told him their first objective was to establish a bridgehead on high ground for the rest of the landing force.

The officer said signs were that resistance would be light at the landing point, which Nicholson was not allowed to identify.

It was a clear, moonlit night. The officer said he would prefer more cloud, "but tonight's the night and we're going."

The operation from the first man to the last man ashore took just over four hours, Nicholson said.

"The last landing craft left us. It was just beginning to get light and we could hear naval bombardment on the high ground just beyond us, which was a known Argentinian troop position. In less than 15 minutes they bombarded that position with over 60 shells.

"They've established their beachhead. We can see them quite clearly. One of them is only about a mile away round a cluster of houses.

"We can see the light tanks, we can see the Scorpions. They're setting up their air defenses. We can see the helicopter pads, tents—they're all established."

Nicholson said all but one of the landings was unopposed.

"We could hear some firefighting as we passed in our ships," he said.

At one spot, troops found 31 islanders, including 14 children, in their own makeshift shelter. All were safe, Nicholson said.

He said the weather was the only thing that could have hampered the operation. The commanders had wanted low cloud and bad visibility to give their men cover from Argentine shore batteries and aircraft.

But after fog and gales the previous day, the dawn was crystal clear.

"So the men ashore, like those of us in the ships close in shore, had to wait for the promised and expected Argentinian air attacks. And we didn't have to wait long," Nicholson said.

He said he could see the troops fanning across open moorland, crouching and running from one hillock to the next, with Scorpion light tanks moving ahead of them.

"There are about us 20 ships or more in this long, narrow stretch of water—it's a kind of fjord, I suppose that's how you'd describe it—that comes off the Falklands Sound. . . .

"Besides the warships of the task force are other ships, civilian ships, that have come to join us. The helicopters are flying between the ships and between the ships and the troops, taking ashore more supplies of food, ammunition, water. Water is going to be one of the big problems."

Shortly after 10 a.m., with the winter sun low and dazzling, the Argentine air attack began, Nicholson said.

"We went into what turned out to be a day-long action stations red air alert."

First the Pucaras, small counterinsurgency planes, flew in—possibly from grass airstrips on the islands—and attacked with cannon fire and rockets, Nicholson said, adding that one almost certainly was hit because a parachute was seen dropping into the sea.

Then came Mirages. The air raids continued all afternoon.

"Thirty minutes later the Argentines sent in more Mirages, followed by their A4s, fighter-bombers coming from the mainland. They came in again very low, flying from the west, crossed the Falklands Sound and then turned into our anchorage and bombed," Nicholson said.

"Two bombs fell just ahead of us, another fell wide and exploded on a hillside to our right. The Argentine pilots seemed not to want to come in close enough for precision bombing. . . .

"We gather that it's 14 aircraft down, and all that matters here tonight as we sit on our ships in the darkness is that the Union Jack is flying less than a mile away from us."

Monday, May 24, 1982

Weather

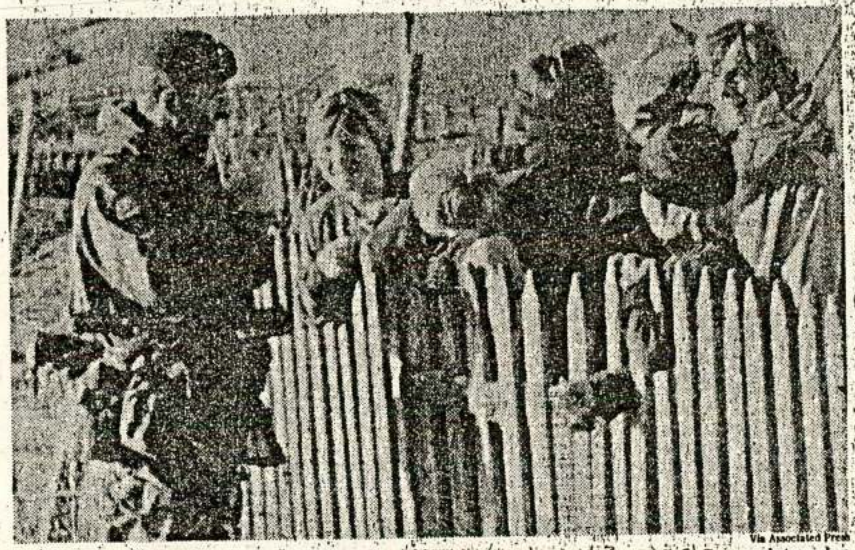
Today—Showers, thunderstorms likely through tonight, high 72-76, low 60-65. Chance of rain is 50 percent, 40 percent tonight. Monday — Partly cloudy, high 80-85. Yesterday — 9 a.m. AQI: 25; temp. range: 67-64. Details on Page C2.

The Washington Post

105th Year ··· No. 169 ··· © 1982, The Washington Post Company · SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1982 · Higher in Areas Approximately 75 Miles From District of Columbia (See Box on A2) · $1.00

Index

Britain Says Troops Expand Hold on Islands



Falklanders provide tea for Royal Marine after Friday's landing. Pool photo was taken by London Daily Express photographer. Via Associated Press



Argentine pilot at Rio Gallegos base points to Falklands map to show site of his air attack to junta member Basilio Lami Dozo. Via Associated Press

By Terri Shaw
Washington Post Foreign Service

Britain said its forces expanded their hold on the Falkland Islands yesterday while both London and Buenos Aires reported only scattered fighting in the disputed territory. The British Defense Ministry acknowledged the loss of a frigate during Friday's fierce battles.

Additional troops landing yesterday brought the total of British forces on the Falklands to about 5,000, high-ranking military sources said. The number of Argentine troops on the islands has been estimated at 9,000.

Defense Secretary John Nott said at a news conference that Argentine jets had sunk the 4½-year-old frigate Ardent on Friday. British military sources said four other warships also were damaged, and 20 seamen from the five ships plus five other combatants were dead or missing. This brought the reported British death toll to 70 since Argentina invaded the British colony April 2.

Argentine President Leopoldo Galtieri told reporters in Buenos Aires that the British have "managed to gain a foothold in the San Carlos zone" of East Falkland Island, but said Britain had suffered "enormous" losses of "lives and materiel." The joint chiefs of staff said fighting was continuing around the British beachhead, but maintained that Argentine forces had the situation "under control." No estimates were given of Argentine casualties.

Galtieri said Argentina is still interested in negotiations "without renouncing the sacred interests of the Argentine nation, which come from the depths of our history."

Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez arrived in New York to present his country's case at the U.N. Security Council debate in which the Soviet Union, Spain and several Latin American nations called for a cease-fire and the resumption of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mediation efforts.

In Rome, Pope John Paul II prayed for peace with cardinals from Britain and Argentina in St. Peter's Basilica, and sent telegrams to the leaders of the two nations urging

See FALKLANDS, A17, Col. 1

LONDON

Mission's Most Perilous Day Ends With 'Remarkably Low Casualties'

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, May 22—Defense officials, reconstructing the biggest British invasion since the Suez crisis in 1956, said here today that about 5,000 Royal Marine paratroopers and support troops landed on the Falkland Islands yesterday and survived the military operation's most perilous day with "remarkably low casualties."

British officials said there were no casualties among the invading troops or those aboard the two dozen military and civilian ships supporting them. The troops and their weapons, heavy equipment and supplies, the officials said, were ferried by helicopter and landing craft with clockwork precision from before dawn to after nightfall under attack by Argentine warplanes.

Even the requisitioned cruise liner Canberra escaped unscathed from bombs British officials said were dumped randomly in the fjord-like bay called San Carlos where the invasion force landed.

Twenty men have been reported dead or missing from the five warships hit by Argentine bombs and missiles while outside the bay in Falkland Sound dividing the two main islands. One British ship, the frigate Ardent, sank last night after being riddled with missiles, and four others have been damaged but are operable, according to British officials. A destroyer with an unexploded bomb in its operations room and at least two more of the ships were reported today to be still operable.

See STRATEGY, [illegible] Col. 1

In Britain, there is a feeling o[illegible] [illegible]nce[illegible] pride" in the effort to liberate the Falkland Islanders. Page A16

BUENOS AIRES

Galtieri Calls for Cease-Fire, Claims Troops Hold Off Assault

By Jackson Diehl
Washington Post Foreign Service

BUENOS AIRES, May 22—President Leopoldo Galtieri said today that Argentina was continuing to hold off British invasion forces on the Falkland Islands, but called for a cease-fire to "pacify emotion and end the hostility."

As the military junta maintained a rigorous silence about reports of expanding British military control on the islands, Galtieri told reporters this afternoon that "the battles continue."

The Army commander in chief, speaking publicly for the first time in six days, acknowledged that British forces had "been able to set foot in the zone of San Carlos," at the northwest end of East Falkland Island. He added, however, that Britain had suffered an "enormous" and "regrettable" loss of materiel and lives.

"It is going to be very difficult for the enemy to make up for the losses it has suffered," Galtieri said.

Military officials in the capital refused to answer questions today about activities of the Air Force, which yesterday claimed to have scored hits on eight British ships while losing six planes.

[British military reports claimed that 16 Argentine warplanes and four helicopters had been shot down and that an Argentine patrol boat had been damaged.]

"A Pucara [an Argentine-made plane] is bombing Big Ben," was the angry answer of one Air Force official

See ARGENTINA, A17, Col. 1

In an Argentine town that wasn't ready for the invasion, relatives await word from the islands. Page A20

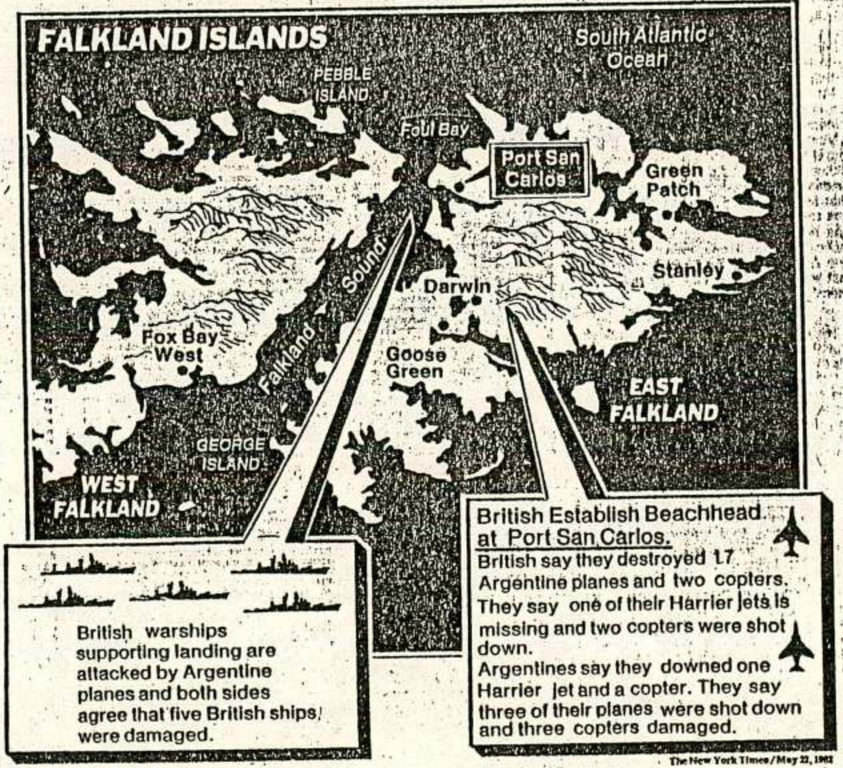
"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Weather: Cloudy and cool today, chance of scattered showers; showers likely tonight. Cloudy, periods of rain tomorrow. Temperatures: today 57-63, tonight 51-53; yesterday 67-72. Details on page 12.

VOL.CXXXI.... No. 45,321 — NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1982 — 30 CENTS

BRITAIN SEIZES A BEACHHEAD IN FALKLANDS; REPORTS DOWNING 17 PLANES, HAD 5 SHIPS HIT



ARGENTINE LOSSES

Junta Concedes Troops Failed to Dislodge the Soldiers on Island

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 21 — Argentine forces fought today to dislodge British troops who landed in the morning on East Falkland Island, but military spokesmen admitted tonight that they had not succeeded.

The Argentine command announced that its planes had struck hard at British warships supporting the landing, crippling two ships and damaging three others. A communiqué said a British Sea Harrier jet and a helicopter had been shot down in the area, but it gave no details.

The command said tonight that Argentina had lost three warplanes in the fighting and that three helicopters had been damaged.

"Operations in the area are continuing," the command said.

Landing by 1,000 Men

The British landing, by about 1,000 men, took place on the bay of Port San Carlos, on the western or opposite side of the island from Stanley, the capital of the Falklands.

The Argentine command announced that the British "disembarkation began" at 8:50 A.M. and that it was "being resisted by our forces."

The landing, the command said, began five minutes after three British ships had been detected in San Carlos Bay and another ship north of the mouth of the channel between East and West Falkland.

According to Argentine military sources, the British hit the beaches aboard small assault craft that carry about 25 men each. They said the ad- e landing party in the first wave iade up of 250 men.

.e informants said that Argentine

Continued on Page 6, Column 1

OVER 1,000 ASHORE

2 Vessels Sustain Heavy Damage — a Harrier Is Reported Lost

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 21 — British troops attacked the Falkland Islands today and established "a firm bridgehead" in the fighting with Argentine troops, Defense Secretary John Nott announced tonight.

Mr. Nott reported that five British ships were damaged, two of them seriously, and that one Harrier jet was missing at the end of the first day of

Statements by Britain, page 6.

fighting. The Argentines, who conceded that the British landing had taken place, were said to have lost 17 planes.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said Argentina and Britain had stiffened their positions before the talks broke down.

Small-Scale Landings

The battle of the Falklands began only a few hours after the collapse of diplomatic negotiations between the two countries, when Royal Marine commandos and troopers of the Parachute Regiment stormed ashore in a half-dozen or more small-scale raids and landings, military sources reported.

These were designed to destroy fuel and ammunition dumps and to divert attention from the simultaneous main invasion at Port San Carlos on East Falkland Island.

Dispatches from the scene said the landing took four hours. At dawn this morning, Mr. Nott declared, the Argentine Air Force launched a major attack on frigates and destroyers of the British task force bombarding Argentine positions from Falkland Sound.

2 Ships Seriously Damaged

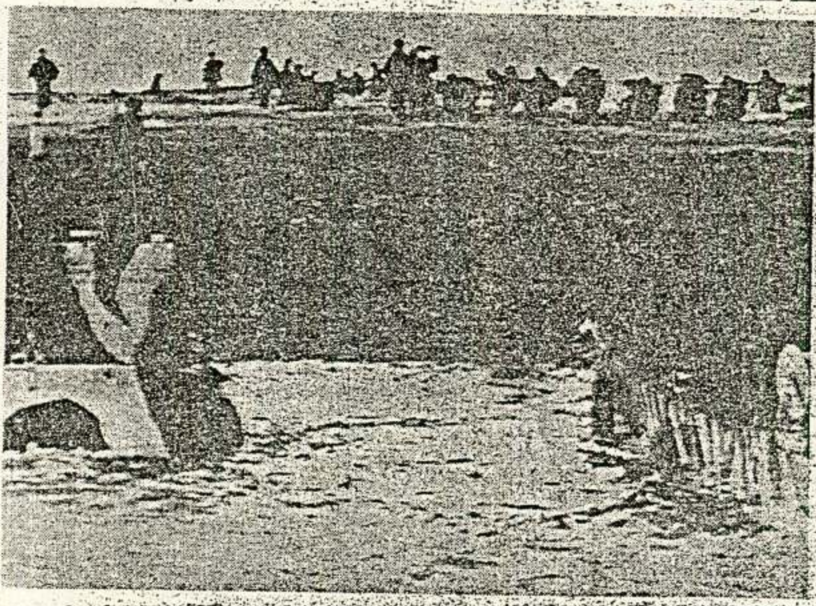
The minister said that five British ships had been damaged, two of them seriously, and two small helicopters

The New York Times

Weather: Cloudy and cool with periods of rain likely today and tonight. Chance of scattered showers through tomorrow. Temperatures: today 55-60, tonight 51-53; yesterday 55-60. Details on page 33.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1982 — ONE DOLLAR

BRITISH EXPANDING BEACHHEAD; 5,000 TROOPS REPORTED ASHORE; 20 MEN LOST AS FRIGATE IS SUNK



Associated Press

British paratroopers landing on the Falklands early Friday. No other information on the photograph was given by the British Defense Ministry, which made it available yesterday in London. Other pictures appear inside.

PATROLS PUSH EAST

Howitzers, Missiles and Radar Are Deployed — Casualties Unclear

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 22 — British reinforcements poured ashore on East Falkland Island today as the beachhead established on Friday was widened to 10 square miles, Government officials reported tonight. But a British missile frigate hit in the landing attack sank in Falkland Sound with the presumed loss of 20 lives.

John Nott, the Defense Minister, said that the 3,250-ton frigate Ardent had gone down after being hit by bombs and rockets during intensive air raids by the Argentine Air Force. The four-year-old ship was the second lost by the British task force in the South Atlantic; the destroyer Sheffield was fatally damaged by an Exocet missile on May 4.

British sources said that 5,000 marines and paratroopers had moved into the beachhead around San Carlos Bay on the northwestern coast of East Falkland — far more than it had been thought possible to land in 36 hours.

Patrols Push Eastward

Reconnaissance patrols were reported pushing eastward, probing for Argentine counterattacks, and other troops deploying 105-millimeter pack howitzers, Rapier surface-to-air missiles, antiaircraft guns and early-warning radar systems.

Michael Nicholson of Independent Television News reported from the scene that the Argentines had made neither ground nor air attacks by midday today, Falklands time. He radioed that troop transports and supply ships had returned to the open sea, out of range of land-based enemy jets, but that destroyers and frigates remained in the bay, covering the beachhead with their missiles and six-inch guns.

"We must expect fresh attacks on our forces in the next day or so," Mr. Nott said at a news conference. "But they are fighting now from a secure base, and the hazardous hours of the initial amphibious landing are now well behind them."

'Back on Islands in Strength'

"We are back on the Falkland Islands and back in strength," the minister added. "We are going to get on now and repossess the islands."

In Buenos Aires, official spokesmen and the official Telam press agency said that 600 British troops had landed and had suffered heavy casualties. The 400 survivors, they reported, were cut off and "have been left to their fate." The Argentine high command said that eight British warships had been put out of action and two of them sunk.

The number of British casualties was

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

U.S. SEES SETBACK TO ITS LATIN TIES

Falkland Crisis Said to Create Shift Against Washington

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 22 — Reagan Administration officials say the Falkland Islands conflict is creating a long-term, major shift in attitudes and policies throughout South America that will inevitably be harmful to United States interests.

This gloomy analysis is said to be shared by many of the Administration's leading experts on Latin America in various agencies. It is a reason why the Administration has spent so much time trying to mediate the dispute and why, after taking Britain's side, it has done as little as possible publicly for the British.

Argentine and the Atom Bomb

"I think we are dealing with a sea change in South America," one official said today. "A lot of it will take some time to develop because Latin America is very fragmented."

In conversations today and in recent days, officials saw these problems for the United States in the future:

¶No matter what the outcome of the Falklands conflict, Argentina is now more likely than ever to develop an atomic bomb as a sign of its military strength. If this happens, Brazil, the continent's leading power, will be psychologically pressed to do the same

Continued on Page 13, Co

Argentine Command Says Troops Are Still Fighting to Expel British

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 22 — Argentina said today that its forces on the Falkland Islands were still fighting British troops who have established a beachhead near Port San Carlos.

A military spokesman said the Argentines were trying to push the British back. But an air force spokesman said Argentine planes, though active on Friday, had not returned to the battle.

The spokesman said British ships had withdrawn from the sound between the two main islands.

President Leopoldo Galtieri, in his first public comment since the landing, said "the enemy has successfully obtained a foothold in the zone of San Carlos and the fighting continues."

Heavy Losses Ascribed to British

He said the British had suffered heavy losses and would find it difficult to recover from them.

Alluding to what the Argentines consider intransigence on the part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, General Galtieri said at a news conference:

"The blood that is spilling is not my responsibility. It is the responsibility of Mrs. 'NO.' "

He nonetheless appealed to Britain to resume the negotiations and said there were "various initiatives by friendly countries" trying to establish a cease-fire.

A high-ranking officer said military planners had been surprised by the size and boldness of the landing. He questioned the risk Britain took in putting more than a dozen warships in the 15-mile-wide Falkland Sound.

He acknowledged in an interview that it was possible Britain could recapture the islands, adding that luck and weather would be primary factors. But he said that if Britain retook the islands Argentina would counterattack.

President Confers With Aides

General Galtieri met in the presidential palace with Vice Adm. Leopoldo Suárez de Cerro, the head of the joint military command, and later with Brig. Basilio Lami Dozo, the air force commander, to discuss the situation.

The air force has been the mainstay of Argentine defenses, inflicting the greatest losses on the British and suffering the greatest damage.

The joint command said six planes and three helicopters were lost in the fighting on Friday. It said two British ships were probably sunk and six others damaged. Three British Sea Harriers and two helicopters were also shot down, the command said.

Military sources said the fighting had gone beyond the beachhead and had included naval shelling and bombing runs against a number of points.

The sources said Sea Harriers had struck near Stanley and British ships had bombarded positions in Fox Bay,

Continued on Page 13, Column 1

Crisis in the Falklands: The Military Outlook

Prospects in Fighting for Both Sides: The Predicted, Possible and Probable

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 22 — A senior British Government official said tonight that he expected the three marine commando battalions and the two parachute battalions now ashore at Port San Carlos in the Falkland Islands to begin harassing raids on Argentine defensive positions, some of them miles from the bridgehead perimeter.

Military Analysis

Helicopters loaded with infantry give the British force a mobility the Argentine defenders do not have, the official said. Other military sources said they expected the helicopter attacks to focus on supply dumps and ammunition depots behind the Argentine front.

Military officials also predict aggressive infantry patrols at platoon and squad level.

Military analysts do not discount the possibility that the British will make a subsidiary landing somewhere near Stanley using the reserves still aboard ship in the task force. These could be supported by the army's 3,500-member Fifth Brigade aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2, now nearing the battle area.

The brigade's combat units would have to be transferred to attack ships before the operation could be mounted, these analysts said, meaning that a delay of one or two days might occur between the initial landing and its full exploitation.

The Likely and the Unlikely

The Argentine positions around Stanley and its airfield appear to analysts here and at NATO headquarters in Belgium to be the most likely point of attack for a second British landing. There are about 5,100 Argentine troops in the Stanley area and they would face an attack on their own front while awaiting a second attack from forces pushing out of the bridgehead.

British official emphasis on these two choices led some neutral military observers to suggest that, in fact, the task force was planning something entirely different. Ministry of Defense officials and even the observers' British colleagues in the services have been forecasting operations that did not materialize.

A few days ago, a British military source said a major assault was planned against the main Argentine troop concentrations around Stanley, 40 miles from the actual landing site.

There are about 1,100 Argentine troops concentrated around Port Darwin. They have been shelled and bombed intermittently in the last six days and have been harassed by some of the Special Air Service troops who landed on East Falkland island two weeks ago. But they have not been attacked frontally. With Argentine attention focused on the San Carlos bridgehead and the implied threat to Stanley, attacking Port Darwin could well be one of Britain's unpublicized choices.

Argentine Troops Impugned

The landing operations have given the British forces on the spot a new confidence. Their first encounters with Argentine forces appear to substantiate the low estimate of their quality reached by intelligence in the weeks before the landings.

In some cases the Argentine infantry surrendered without firing a shot. In others they broke and ran under shelling and strafing. A senior official described them as "not well trained, organized or equipped and, in many cases hungry and cold."

But he warned that "some of them will fight if good noncommissioned officers can reorganize them."

There are reports that the forces around Stanley deploy an unknown number of French-made AMX-13 tanks. The army has 120 of the tanks with 75-, 90- and 105-millimeter guns. If those on East Falkland island are armed with the 105-millimeter guns, Argentine armor, if well served, should be more than a match for the British Scorpions with their 76-millimeter guns.

But the forces at Stanley are 40 miles from the eastern perimeter of the bridgehead, 40 miles of rough, soggy ground. An effective answer to the British threat must come from another element.

The Air Threat

Under present circumstance, British officials said, this could be only the air. The success of Argentine attacks on the troops in the bridgehead would depend, they added, on the speed with which pads are established there for Harriers, on the effectiveness of the Rapier antiaircraft missiles and Blindfire all-weather radar units and, as always, on the weather.

Air force informants emphasize the weather because intelligence summaries provide evidence that bad weather over the Falklands has led to serious errors in bombing patterns by Argentine aircraft and, in the case of the American-built A-4's, several crashes because of their lack of radar.

The British hope that by Sunday the buildup of antiaircraft strength in the bridgehead will have made air raids on targets there prohibitively costly. They say the attacks on British warships supporting the landing had what they called "only a limited success" and at the same time the Argentines "lost heavily in Mirages, their best aircraft and, equally important, in trained pilots."

The British say they have shot down 12 Argentine Mirages. Before the fighting, the Argentine Air Force had 21 Mirage 3's and 26 Daggers, an Israeli-modified version of the aircraft.

The troops moving into the bridgehead reportedly knocked down two of the Argentine aircraft with their light Blowpipe surface-to-air missiles. With more troops ashore, probably about 5,000, the danger to the attackers from these weapons would increase.

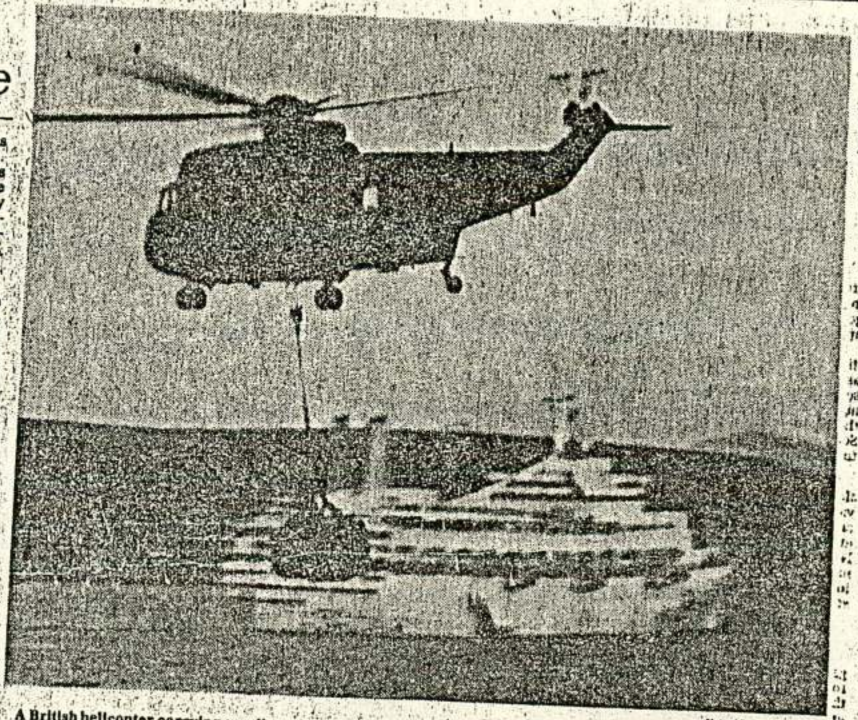
British military and civilian officials, well satisfied with the first 36 hours since the landing, believe that the air threat to the supporting fleet is bound to diminish. Once the ground has been cleared within the bridgehead, they said, key supplies and, if necessary, reinforcements can be landed by helicopters from the fleet.

The antiaircraft missiles and guns in the bridgehead, they reckon, will then suffice to meet the attacks of a diminished Argentine air force with help from the Harriers and, perhaps, two ships armed for antiaircraft war.

There is no disposition among senior military and civilian officials to put a time limit on the operation.

The most one senior officer would say is that "if things continue to move as well as they have, we may see most mass surrenders by the enemy and, in Buenos Aires, a crack in the junta's facade."

But he warned; "It's early days yet. Well-officered troops can recover rapidly from a serious setback. Everything at the moment on their side depends on the leadership of their officers and N.C.O.'s. You know the old adage: There are no bad troops, only bad officers."



United Press International

A British helicopter carrying supplies ashore. In background is the Canberra, a cruise ship converted by the British into a troop carrier. Another converted ocean liner, the Queen Elizabeth 2, is on her way to the Falklands.

N.Y. Times — 23 de Mayo —

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number of stories of each building.

British Expanding Beachhead; 5,000 Reported Ashore

Continued From Page 1

not clear. The Ministry of Defense said that three men had been killed, two were missing and 27 had been wounded in ground action. In the sinking of the Ardent, 30 sailors were reported injured in addition to the 20 presumed dead. But dispatches from the troopship Canberra spoke of a large number of wounded being treated in her sick bays, and the ministry figures appeared to be incomplete.

Mr. Nott said that five warships had been hit. A 500-pound bomb plowed into the engine room of one vessel, believed to be the 6,200-ton light cruiser Antrim, but failed to explode, he said. The ship was said to be back in service, along with a Leander-class frigate and two other ships that suffered relatively minor damage. A senior Government official said that a large number of the fuses on old British and American bombs dropped by the Argentine planes were faulty.

The loss of the Ardent was a serious blow to the British, but military officials said it could have been worse. Her sister ships in the Amazon class, such as the Antelope, Arrow and Alacrity, carry supersonic Sea Wolf missiles, Britain's best defense against Exocets and low-flying jet attack planes. The loss of any of them would have greatly diminished the flotilla's already shaky air defense capacity. The Ardent, sunk by bombs and rockets from an Italian-made Aermacchi jet, was rushed to the South Atlantic before her Sea Wolfs had been installed.

'Complete Surprise' Reported

Lieut. Col. Timothy Donkin of the Royal Marines said the landings — a miniature version of those in Normandy in 1944, which employed exactly the same type of landing craft — had "achieved complete surprise." A number of enemy soldiers fled to the north in the dark, he reported, and nine "cold, wet, miserable" prisoners were taken.

"The invasion has not been repelled," the officer declared, "nor will it be repelled. We are there to stay. We are not over optimistic, but if the level of opposition we have met so far is all that has to be faced, then we are very much encouraged."

He asserted that the Union Jack had been run up at the three settlements that lie along the Y-shaped bay a few miles inland from Falkland Sound — Port San Carlos, San Carlos and Ajax Bay.

Britain said that it had destroyed 16 Argentine warplanes, one less than it had said late Friday, including nine Mirages, five Skyhawks and two Pucaras, plus four helicopters. Mr. Nott called that "a very significant blow to the Argentine air force." Officials here put British losses at one Sea Harrier jet and two helicopters.

Task Force Said to Have 100 Ships

It emerged, meanwhile, in talks with authoritative Government officials, that the task force committed to the recapture of the Falklands was considerably larger than previously reported. It is understood to include about 100 military and civilian ships, and 25,000 men are said to be involved — combat troops, sailors and the crews of the support vessels.

Senior military officers conceded that the troops in the beachhead were vulnerable to attack both by aircraft and by troops from the main Argentine garrison at Stanley, which is about 40 miles east of the most westerly point in the British position, along San Carlos Creek.

But they calculated that it would take the enemy foot soldiers some time to get there, and they said the weapons taken ashore by the marines and paratroopers would make air defense easier. One officer said that Blowpipe rockets, fired from the shoulder by paratroops on Friday, had brought down two Argentine aircraft.

Speculation on Strategy

Some analysts suggested that Britain's aim was to draw the Argentine troops out of Stanley and bring them to battle as far from their base as possible.

It was reported, but not confirmed, that combat engineers had put down portable steel planking to enable Harrier ground-support planes to operate from the bridgehead.

Mr. Nott promised that British troops would "advance to place the occupying Argentine troops under increasing harassment." Adm. of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, the chief of the defense staff, added, "We are going to move, and move fast."

Admiral Lewin claimed "complete victory" for his men in the air battle against Argentina, despite the sinking of the Ardent.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was given reports on the fighting at a Cabinet meeting this morning. Later, she went to the naval headquarters at Northwood, near London, for a briefing by Adm. Sir John Fieldhouse, the commander in chief of the fleet, and still later she went to the Prime Minister's country residence, Chequers.

Attack Criticized by Laborites

There was little political comment on the landings. But some left-wing members of the opposition Labor Party bitterly denounced the renewed fighting and called for an immediate cease-fire. Leo Abse, a Welsh Member of Parliament, condemned the landing as "a squalid, tragic adventure."

All of Britain's commando units — the 42d, the 43d and the 45th — were reported involved in the Falklands operation, as were two of the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment. The third is aboard the converted liner Queen Elizabeth 2, which is now believed to be only a day or two from the islands.

In the hours before the main landings, Mr. Nott said, diversionary attacks were mounted in a number of areas by Harrier jets and by commandos surreptitiously put ashore. These were believed to have taken place at Stanley airfield, Goose Green airfield and Darwin on East Falkland, Fox Bay on West Falkland and Fanning Head.

Fanning Head commands the entrance from Falkland Sound to San Carlos Bay, and marines captured it late on Thursday, according to official military sources.

Landing Site Picked 2 Weeks Ago

The Press Association, Britain's national news agency, reported that the task force commander, Rear Adm. John F. Woodward, and the landing force commander, Brig. Julian Thompson, learned on Wednesday that small parties of Argentine soldiers had moved into positions around Port San Carlos, which was selected as the landing site two weeks ago. To avoid arousing their suspicions, the agency said, it was decided not to attack the defenders.

According to the Press Association defense correspondent, Robert Hutchinson, troops moved into the assault ships on Wednesday to prepare for the landings, and diversionary attacks were begun in the southern part of East Falkland and on the west island in the hope — eventually fulfilled — that the Argentines would guess wrong.

The amphibious task group started out at dusk Thursday from the eastern edge of the 200-mile blockade zone around the islands, turning at midnight into the sound. Previously landed commandos simultaneously went into action on shore.

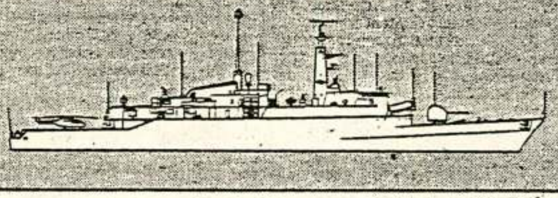
Ardent AT A GLANCE

History
The Ardent, built by Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd., was launched from Glasgow on May 9, 1975, and commissioned on Oct. 13, 1977.

Statistics
When fully equipped, the ship displaced over 3,250 tons and was 384 feet long. She was armed with one 4.5-inch gun and two 20-millimeter single guns, four Exocet missiles, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. She carried two Wasp helicopters.

Crew
She could accommodate a total of 192 men.

Performance
When new, she could make 30 knots, with a cruising range of 4,000 miles at 17 knots.



imes

Weather: Periods of rain, drizzle and fog today; cloudy with a chance of showers tonight. Partly sunny, mild tomorrow. Temperatures: today 60-65, tonight 55-60; yesterday 53-65. Details on page C17.

30 CENTS

6 ARGENTINE JETS REPORTED DOWNED IN FALKLANDS RAID

SHIP SAID TO BE HIT

Buenos Aires's Account Says British Vessel Is Badly Damaged

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER
Special to The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, May 23 — Argentina said tonight that its air force had carried out a major air attack today against British ships that moved in to support a British beachhead on the Falkland Islands.

The military command said in a communiqué that results of the attack "are in the process of evaluation."

A spokesman for the command said that preliminary reports were that one British ship had been badly damaged and Argentina lost "several" planes.

The communiqué said the attacks were "to prevent the enemy from reinforcing or consolidating its position at Port San Carlos," a reference to the British beachhead established Friday on the northwestern corner of the East Falkland. The landing was made on San Carlos Bay off Falkland Sound, a 15-mile-wide channel that divides the two main islands.

Ships' Movements Restricted

The spokesman said a small group of ships were caught in the channel, the site of fighting all day Friday. He said most of the ships had since moved away from the Falklands, out of the range of Argentine planes, but moved back in today. The movement of the ships is limited in the channel, he said, making them vulnerable.

He said Argentine planes also strafed and bombed the British troops in their emplacements on the beachhead.

There was little official word about the status of ground fighting against British troops. The command issued a communiqué saying this was because of the slow nature of ground operations.

In another development, Argentina

Continued on Page A7, Column 1

3 OTHERS IN DOUBT

British Tell of Attack on Their Ships and Say a Frigate Was Hit

By STEVEN RATTNER
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 23 — Six Argentine aircraft were shot down and three others were probably downed in fighting between British and Argentine forces over the Falkland Islands, the British Defense Ministry announced tonight.

The announcement said the losses occurred as Argentine planes mounted a new attack on British ships in San Carlos Bay and on the beachhead established by British forces two days ago in the northwest corner of East Falkland.

In the fighting, one British frigate "sustained some damage," according to a British spokesman, Ian McDonald, but no reports on the extent of the damage or of casualties have been received.

British Respond With Missiles

Mr. McDonald said the Argentine planes were attacked by missiles from surface ships, by Rapier missiles recently moved into position around the beachhead and by Sea Harrier jets from the carriers Invincible and Hermes.

Robert Fox, a BBC reporter with the task force, said in a dispatch, "Suddenly there was a bang on the starboard side, and up in the sky I could see where a missile had been fired and then, about 500 yards from the anchorage, an enormous ball of fire with black smoke coming out of it as the Skyhawk hit the water."

British officials have increasingly been talking about moving fast to retake the islands — within a matter of "days, not weeks," as one official put it. Senior officials said the prospects for diplomacy were slim until the British hold on the islands was complete.

"Now we've committed our forces

Continued on Page A8, Column 4

6 Argentine Planes Reported Downed

Continued From Page 1

with a view to repossessing the islands and liberating the people, and I would have thought that must be our prime consideration and that diplomacy must take something of a back seat," Cecil Parkinson, the chairman of the Conservative Party and a member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's war cabinet, said today.

"Having established a secure base," Mr. Parkinson said, "we are planning to move, and to move fast. It is not our intention to be lured into a long and bloody war."

Foreign Secretary Francis Pym said that Britain might occupy the Falklands for up to a year and that shared defense responsibilities with other countries — presumably not including Argentina — might follow.

"We have got to think about their security," Mr. Pym said of the Falkland Islanders, "so I would envisage quite a long period, perhaps 6 months or 12 months, when they are thinking about their future.

"And I think we, at the same time, would want perhaps to talk to lots of other countries to see whether, on a broader basis, we could establish some pattern of defense."

In a separate incident today, British Sea Harriers reportedly attacked Argentine helicopters off the coast of West Falkland. One Argentine helicopter, a Puma, exploded after being hit with a Sidewinder missile, Mr. McDonald said, and a Bell helicopter that was on fire landed and a second Puma may have been damaged.





The New York Times/May 24,1982

Argentine planes attacked British ships in San Carlos Bay. Britain said one was hit and at least six aircraft downed. Argentine sorties were reported around Port San Carlos beachhead.

The reports of new air battles came at the end of a day in which British planes bombed Argentine positions near Darwin, 17 miles south of the beachhead at San Carlos Bay, where 5,000 British troops reportedly reinforced and consolidated their position today. The attack could presage a British ground attack at Darwin, military experts said.

Plane Toll Said to Be 58

By the British count, the announcement tonight brought to at least 58 the number of planes lost by Argentina in the Falkland fighting. At the outset, Argentina had 220 planes, including helicopters, although some may not have been operational.

The six planes shot down today included five Mirages and one Skyhawk, the Defense Ministry said. The three probably lost were one Mirage and two Skyhawks, it said. In addition, British correspondents at the front said one Pucará attack plane was shot down by ground forces.

According to the British, Argentina has now lost 14 of its 21 Mirage III fighter planes, the most sophisticated planes in its air force. British military officials said it was possible, but not likely, that some of the downed planes could have been Israeli-built Daggers, a shorter-ranger, modified version of the Mirage of which Argentina has 22.

Supply Efforts Under Way

A huge effort is under way to supply and fortify the troops ashore at Port San Carlos, according to British correspondents there. Brian Hanrahan of the BBC said that ships had been continuously unloading supplies and that cranes had been swinging crates of heavy equipment onto landing craft and large rafts.

On the ground, the correspondents said, landing pads have been installed for Harrier jump-jets, and the troops have been installing camouflaged tents and digging trenches.

British military officials could not confirm assertions in Buenos Aires that Argentine troops were moving toward the British forces. British officials said, however, that several Argentine soldiers who fled into the countryside when the British attacked had surrendered.

'No Evidence' of Argentines

"The commando unit to which I am attached has been sending out fighting patrols every night, pushing farther forward in its attempt to get into contact with the enemy," Alistair McQueen of The Daily Mirror said in a pool dispatch. "But they seem to have disappeared. There is no evidence of any Argentine troops massing for an assault against us."

Before the Argentine air attack, British planes bombed and strafed the airstrip at Goose Green, near Darwin, where several hundred Argentine troops are believed to be stationed, along with several attack planes. According to British press reports from the islands, wrecked Pucarás were seen on the ground, but military spokesmen said they might have been destroyed in earlier attacks.

In a military engagement earlier today, the Monsunen, a small Falkland Islands cargo ship that was been taken over by Argentine forces, was also attacked. Its crew beached the boat and ran away, British officials said.

Details of Sinking Reported

New details emerged today on the last moments of the British frigate Ardent, which was sunk Friday by Argentine planes. Survivors told of wave after wave of Mirages pouring rockets and bombs into a ship forced to remain stationary to protect British troops landing at Port San Carlos.

"A bomb hit our stern, taking away our power, the Seacat missiles and a gun," a petty officer told British correspondents. "When the last wave of five dived, we had only a team of machine gunners" led by the catering manager.

With fires raging out of control, the ship was finally abandoned and quickly sank. The Ardent had escorted the troopship Canberra to the war zone, and it was to the Canberra, a converted liner, that the survivors were taken.

Moscow Condemns Britain's 'Invasion'; Calls for Cease-Fire

By JOHN F. BURNS
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 23 — The official Soviet press agency, Tass, issued a statement today condemning Britain for its "armed invasion" of the Falkland Islands and demanding an immediate cease-fire and resumption of negotiations.

The Tass statement, a form used to denote direct Kremlin authority, said Britain's "massive attack" on the islands constituted "a new, dangerous turn" in the situation. But it gave no indication that Moscow intended going beyond the propaganda support it has given Argentina since early in the crisis.

The statement, which was issued in English, squarely blamed Britain for the hostilities. As has been the case with all Soviet commentaries on the matter, it made no mention of the armed seizure of the islands by Argentine troops on April 2. Instead, it said it was Britain that "made stake on armed force" from the outset and had blocked efforts to avoid a military confrontation.

"Britain now turns down negotiations at all, while the Government of Argentina stands for continued negotiations," the statement said. "This refusal from negotiations cannot be justified, no matter how one assesses the causes of the conflict."

Invoking the Kremlin's authority, it added: "The Soviet leading circles denounce Britain's use of military force. An immediate end should be put to the bloodshed. Undelayed efforts, including within the framework of the United Nations, are necessary to end the Anglo-Argentine dispute through negotiations."

Crisis in the Falklands: Britain's Beachhead Consolidated

British Given an Unexpected Bonus By Argentines' Inactivity on Ground

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

Military Analysis

LONDON, May 23 — For the past 48 hours British forces, according to reports from the South Atlantic, have methodically strengthened and expanded their beachhead in the Port San Carlos area while Argentine ground forces, according to British officials, have done little to oppose them.

The result is that the British tactical position has improved dramatically. According to British estimates, they now have enough troops and weapons ashore to hold their beachhead against the maximum attack that Argentine forces could launch.

Military analysts, here and at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, are increasingly convinced that the next British landing will be closer to Stanley, possibly at Rookery Bay some miles to the east of the islands' capital.

The Argentine command's problems are consequently complex, according to these analysts. A major Argentine attack now on the beachhead would leave beaches at Rookery Bay and elsewhere relatively unprotected.

The opinion among qualified military and political sources in London is that the British Government, emboldened by the reported success of the landing and the retention of the initiative, now intends to move rapidly to engage the remaining Argentine forces on the islands.

Radar on High Ground

One of the reasons for British confidence is that during the two days of Argentine inactivity on the ground, the British commandos and paratroops in the beachhead have been able to establish their radar on the high ground on both banks of the San Carlos River. This will help the Rapier surface-to-air missile batteries within the British zone to react swiftly to any air attack on the troops.

Shortage of Supplies

British naval sources contend that one of the unrecognized dividends of the British blockade of the islands is that the Argentine forces cannot hope for adequate supply and reinforcement. The sources conceded that one or two transports might get through to drop supplies to the forces at Stanley, but this would not make up for the ammunition, food and fuel already consumed.

If, as some neutral observers argue, the next two days are critical, the British believe they are well prepared to meet any belated counterattack. According to reports from the area, the airfield at Port San Carlos has been improved and lengthened to take not only Harriers but helicopters carrying supplies and, if necessary, reinforcements. These shipments will relieve the navy of the risky job of moving close inshore to deliver supplies in landing craft and free those craft for use elsewhere.

Any British advance from the beachhead, or Argentine counterattack from Stanley, would have to overcome the forbidding terrain. The ground between the two forces is covered with peat bogs cut by streams and lakes. There are no roads that far west on East Falkland Island and any counterattack would have to be delivered largely by marching infantry, under the fire of the 105-millimeter guns and 81-millimeter mortars now deployed in the beachhead.

The ability of the Argentine personnel carriers to cross the terrain is questionable, according to British military sources. Neutral intelligence sources say that the garrison at Stanley is equipped with personnel carriers, but there is no verifiable information on the number of these vehicles.

One type is the Swiss-built Mowag Roland, which carries three or four infantrymen and is armed with 7.62-millimeter machine gun. Another is the LARC, a version of the American DUKW, a World War II amphibious vehicle with large variable pressure tires. The third is the American LVTP-7, a tracked amphibious vehicle that can carry up to 25 infantrymen and a 20-millimeter cannon and machine gun.

Argentine Personnel Carriers

The British are confident that their Scorpion light tanks, armed with 76-millimeter guns, and the Scimitar armored cars, which have 30-millimeter guns, will be able to handle any armored personnel carriers the Argentines can get through the peat bogs for an attack.

Both the British armored vehicles might have been designed for exactly this type of terrain. According to one authoritative source they exert less ground pressure than a marching infantryman and can cross bogs impassable to foot soldiers.

Military analysts here believe that the Argentine force, if it attacks the beachhead, needs support by helicopters and Pucará light attack aircraft.

At the start of the fighting Argentina had 42 Pucarás. Some have been lost to British Harriers and an undetermined number have been destroyed by bombing. Harriers, hitting the Goose Green airstrip today, reported a number of the light aircraft lying wrecked near the strip.

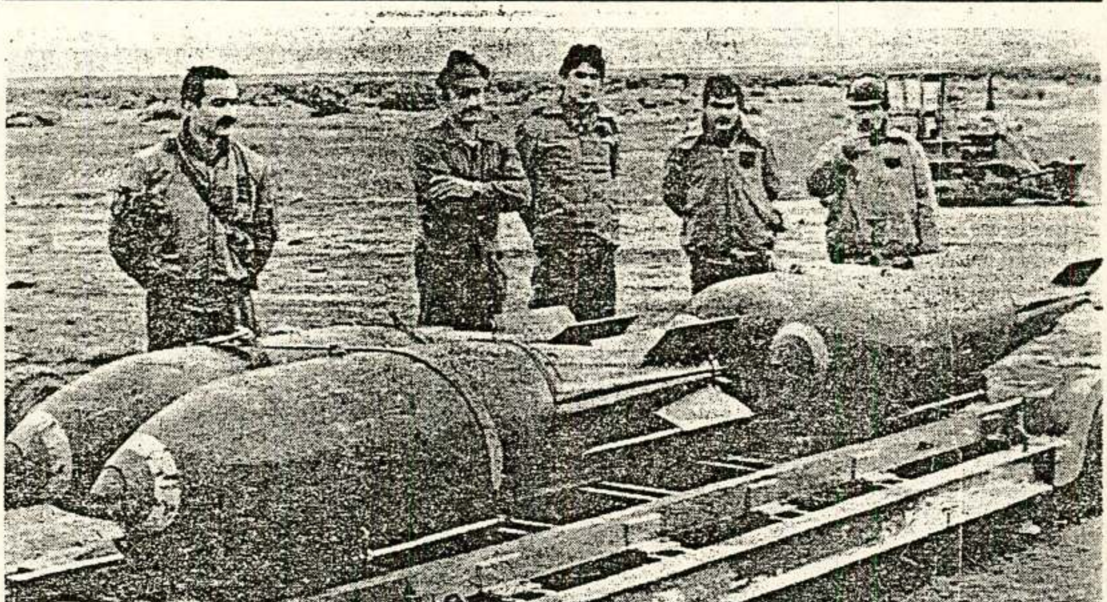
Royal Air Force officers argue that no Argentine counterattack has what one called "the faintest chance of success" unless it is adequately supported by Mirage and Dagger jet fighters and A-4 attack planes flown from the mainland. Even if these aircraft are deployed, he said, they would have to contend with the winter storm now closing over the Falklands.



British Defense Ministry/United Press International

A Sea King helicopter delivers supplies to British troops on the Falklands.

Crisis in the Falklands: To Argentines, Victory Is in Sight



Argentine Government Photograph/United Press International

Argentine Air Force personnel waiting to load bombs aboard fighter planes at a base in southern Argentina. Date of picture was not provided.

Argentines Report Badly Damaging British Warship Off Beachhead

Continued From Page 1

replied favorably to a peace plea from Pope John Paul II, saying that it was willing to join in a cease-fire in the disputed archipelago.

'Honorable and Just Accord'

The letter to Pope John Paul from Lieut. Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the Argentine President, said in part: "The Argentine nation adheres to the wish of his Holiness and with responsibility before history is ready to join in a cessation of hostilities that would allow the re-establishment of peace, and, in this climate, search for a peaceful, honorable and just accord."

Suggesting that Britain was responsible for the failure of United Nations mediation, the letter added: "The call of his Holiness strengthens our unbending will to support any effort that should lead to detaining a bloody confrontation that we have not looked for and that results from an obstinate and intransigent intent to restore an illegitimate colonial situation."

The letter, delivered to Vatican authorities today, was released by the President's office. The Pope appealed earlier in the week to both President Galtieri and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to end the fighting over the isolated South Atlantic archipelago.

The President spent the night inside the Presidential Palace, which does not include his normal living quarters, and was met again early this morning with the other two members of the ruling junta, Adm. Jorge Isaac Anaya and Brigadier José Miret of the air force to go over military developments.

Status of Troopship

The military command later issued a communiqué saying that the British troopship Canberra, a converted liner, was not a hospital ship, as it said some reports from Britain were claiming. The implication in the communiqué was that Argentina felt free to attack the ship, which sailed into Falkland Sound Friday to disembark troops. The British report said the ship had taken on wounded British and Argentine soldiers.

Argentine military spokesmen said, nonetheless, that for the time being the Canberra and other British ships involved in the landing had withdrawn to the open sea. The 15-mile-wide channel, they said, was a trap for the ships.

The air force said today that about 70 Argentine warplanes were involved in the air attacks against the more than dozen British ships that were in the channel backing the landing Friday. They included three Skyhawk squadrons, two Dagger squadrons and one squadron of Mirage III intercepters.

The Air Force also said that one squadron of Pucará ground attack planes strafed and bombed the troops lodged on the beachhead. The Argentine command said six warplanes were lost Friday, while Britain has said that Argentina lost many more planes.

Military sources said that two of three British Sea Harrier jets that the Argentine command said were sho down Friday were hit by British-mad Blowpipe antiaircraft rockets. Th rockets were fired by Argentine troop on the ground, they said.

Military sources said the air forc would continue carrying the fight to th British fleet. Britain has acknowledge the loss of two ships, the destroyer Shef field and the frigate Ardent.

The hope, military sources said, wa that Britain would reach a point wher the costs would outweigh the benefits o retaking the islands.

On the ground, meanwhile, Argentin military planners apparently hoped t contain the British to their limite beachhead and wait them out, or get a cease-fire and then negotiate.

Argentine military sources said that a defensive line had been formed between Port San Carlos and Stanley, where the Argentine headquarters and a large portion of their estimated 10,000 Argentine troops on the islands were emplaced. That line will be defended, the sources said, but they declined to say where it was.

POPF

Argentine Pilots Face Tougher Air Defense From British Forces

BRITAIN, From A1

today, bringing the total Argentine losses to more than 40 planes in combat and on the ground. It is believed that Argentine pilots are likely to have increasing difficulty now that Britain has consolidated and reinforced its beachhead.

Thus far, Argentine tactics have centered on its Air Force winning a war of attrition and in imposing heavy casualties to wear down the British will to fight on the home front.

Argentina's numerical air superiority, originally calculated at about 8 to 1, has been considered vital for it to hold the islands seized from Britain 51 days ago. But heavy Argentine losses, and the arrival of at least 20 Harrier jump jet reinforcements that brought the number of British fighter planes in the war zone to about 40, probably have brought Argentina's advantage down to about 2 to 1.

In addition, British military analysts maintain that the Harriers have superior maneuverability over the Argentine fighter-bombers, which are mainly 15- to 20-year-old models.

If British reports are accurate, Argentina has lost at least 20 Mirages and Skyhawks in the last three days. It is unknown if others failed to make it back to the mainland and had to ditch at sea because of damage or lack of fuel. Britain has acknowledged the loss of four Harriers.

On the basis that only 75 percent of the planes available are operational at any time, former air marshal Stewart Menaul estimated that Argentina may only be capable of putting about 60 planes in the air now as opposed to 30 for Britain.

Once airborne, they must face the possibility of opposition on land from the Rapiers and the shoulder-held Blowpipe missiles as well as conventional small-arms fire. It is also believed that Royal Air Force Harriers now can operate from airstrips of steel tracking put down by engineers.

In addition, the Argentine pilots still face sea attacks from Harriers based on the two aircraft carriers and a variety of sea-based missiles on escort ships.

Some analysts think Argentina soon may have trouble fielding enough trained pilots and may have difficulty in maintaining the jets and turning them around quickly for new sorties.

One analyst, who declined to be named, said that the loss of pilots is far more serious than the loss of aircraft. The pilot casualty rate may cause Argentina to reconsider its air strategy, he added.

One analyst refused to get involved in the numbers game, but said simply, "The Argentines have had a hell of a reduction in their capability. With the new land defenses the pilots face prodigious odds. It will be very much more difficult for the Argentine Air Force."

Morale of the pilots might be suffering, he said. They have to fly practically the maximum combat radius over the ocean on a single engine, face greatly improved antiaircraft defenses and know there is no complete evacuation if they have to bail out into the freezing sea. "If they ditch, they've had it," he added.

The Rapier is one of the new generation of air defense missiles similar to the Sea Wolf on some of the British frigates. Both fire automatically and home in on their target with their guidance system unless they are restrained by their crew.

The Rapier, however, is an "area defense system" as opposed to the simple "point" defense offered by the Sea Wolf, which scored hits on Argentine planes earlier this month. The Sea Wolf can only protect the ship it is based on or one within 1,000 yards.

Unlike the Sea Wolf, the Rapier is capable of distinguishing between friend and foe, but Royal Air Force pilots are known to be uneasy about flying near the missile batteries anyway.

"The Rapiers provide an umbrella of cover" that cannot be obtained from a sea-based missile system, the analyst said.

The Argentine pilots are also liable to face more Sea Harriers since the placement of RAF Harriers on land for ground attacks frees the jump jets on the carriers for air defense exclusively, if necessary.

In other action today, the Defense Ministry said British aircraft attacked the settlement and airstrip at Goose Green, about 40 miles south of the British beachhead. A commercial vessel used by the Argentines to ferry troops, ammunition and supplies around the island was also run aground and abandoned by its crew after being threatened by a task force ship.

Alistair McQueen, a correspondent for the London Daily Mirror, filed a pool dispatch from the San Carlos beachhead describing the scene as the Argentine planes attacked today. He said he had to dive for cover three times as the jets swept in over the island.

"The commando unit to which I am attached has been sending out fighting patrols every night, pushing further forward in its attempt to get into contact with the enemy. But they appeared to have disappeared," McQueen wrote.

"There is no evidence of any Argentinian troops massing for an assault against us, as claimed by the junta in Buenos Aires.

"The only Argentinians we have heard about so far were two more who walked into parachute regiment positions flying white flags at dawn today. The men were hungry, wet and frightened and without their weapons."

A survivor from the sunken frigate HMS Ardent aboard the Canberra told how waves of Mirages attacked the ship Friday.

"When the last wave of five dived, we had only a team of machine-gunners led" by the stores manager, a civilian who learned to fire in the Army, he said.

Television programs also showed Argentine film reportedly taken last Thursday at Stanley, an indication that some aircraft are still breaking the British blockade. The film showed defensive positions, artillery, antiaircraft batteries, gunboats offshore and troops carrying rocket-propelled grenades.

British Misled World on Landing Plans

By Leonard Downie Jr.
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, May 23—The British counterinvasion of the Falkland Islands began days before Friday's concentrated "D-Day" landings, which British officials had said would never take place.

Ordered during the dying days of diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement between Britain and Argentina, the invasion was launched under cover of both darkness and misleading statements of British intentions.

It was accompanied by smaller landings, raids and attacks throughout the rest of the Falklands that were advertised in advance but turned out in many cases to be diversions.

Although most of the world was awaiting a major military escalation by Britain in some form, few expected large-scale landings, which British officials long had claimed publicly were impractical. A senior British defense planner, Marine Col. Tim Donkin, said the invasion "achieved complete surprise" by striking around a bay called San Carlos Water on the northwest corner of East Falkland Island.

By the end of the day, British forces had established a 10-square-mile land base and had set up Rapier antiaircraft missile batteries, sophisticated early warning radar installations and heavy artillery in hills around the base perimeter.

Senior British defense officials, who provided the following account of the military operation, said it began last Wednesday during the last throes of diplomatic negotiations at the United Nations. Scores of ships in the British task force formed up tightly north and east of the Falklands just out of range of Argentina's land-based warplanes. Helicopters ferried troops and equipment from ship to ship for the invasion.

A Sea King helicopter carrying 27 commandos of the secretive Special Air Services crashed during one of these transfers, killing 19 SAS commandos, a Marine and the helicopter pilot. It was Britain's largest single loss since Argentina invaded the Falklands on April 2.

British commandos, who had already landed on the Falklands weeks before for reconnaissance, sabotage and selection of an invasion site, reported to the task force Wednesday that small groups of Argentine troops had moved to two positions around San Carlos Water.

Diversionary attacks also were begun Wednesday. British commandos on the islands attacked Argentine forces in the southern half of East Falkland and on West Falkland.

British warships bombarded other Argentine positions around the Falklands' capital of Stanley and at Mare Harbor, about 30 miles west of Stanley. The British were hoping this would lead the Argentine forces to believe the invasion would come from the south, rather than the north.

Sea Harrier jump jets from a British aircraft carrier continued these attacks Thursday before task force ships began moving after dark to position themselves for Friday's invasion. The two aircraft carriers and some escort ships moved southeast of East Falkland Island, both to confuse the Argentines and to stay out of the range of Argentine warplanes.

But the amphibious landing force—two military assault ships and nearly 20 military and civilian troop and supply ships with escorting destroyers and frigates—turned west along the northern coast of East Falkland. At midnight, the ships moved into Falkland Sound between the two main islands. The main group was preceded by a British frigate that began shelling an Argentine position on Fanning Head, at the entrances to Falkland Sound and San Carlos Water.

British commandos already on the ground drove out 30 to 40 Argentine troops, taking nine prisoners. Other commandos destroyed a Pucara attack plane and blew up several fuel and ammunition dumps at Goose Green airstrip and around Darwin, 20 miles south of San Carlos Water, to divert and prevent resistance from Argentine forces there.

With clockwork precision for hours before dawn Friday, 5,000 Marine commandos, paratroopers and support troops landed from helicopters and landing craft on three beaches around San Carlos Water. During the rest of the day, weapons, artillery, light tanks, construction equipment, food, water and other supplies were ferried continuously from ships crowded into the narrow, fjordlike bay.

"A very neat packing job went on for days beforehand to get it all ashore so quickly," said a senior British defense official. "And it was a good beach to land on. We did not expect much opposition."

British forces landing near San Carlos settlement on the northern rim of the bay found and overran a small company of Argentine defenders. While fleeing, some of the Argentines shot down two British Gazelle reconnaissance planes with shoulder-held antiaircraft missiles.

At dawn Friday, a few Argentine ground attack planes from landing strips somewhere on the Falklands flew in low over the hills to observe and attack the landing forces. At least one was shot down.

At 10 a.m., with most of the British troops ashore and establishing a large bridgehead encircling an eight-mile span of San Carlos Water, the first of at least three waves of mainland-based Argentine warplanes attacked.

During the day, Harriers shot down eight Argentine planes, British officials said. Others were shot down by missiles from the warships and shoulder-held launchers used by troops ashore. The British later claimed that 14 of about 30 Argentine planes participating in the day-long raids were shot down (six other Argentine aircraft were reported destroyed during the day).

Argentine planes that got through to attack the landing force, Col. Donkin said, had difficulty maneuvering in the narrow inlet and dropped their bombs "indiscriminately" into the water, missing but menacing the British ships, including the converted liner Canberra.

But Argentine planes had more room to maneuver over Falkland Sound, Donkin said, and some were able to hit their targets cleanly. Three warships were damaged but remained operational, British officials said, including a destroyer with an unexploded bomb in its operations room that was defused yesterday.

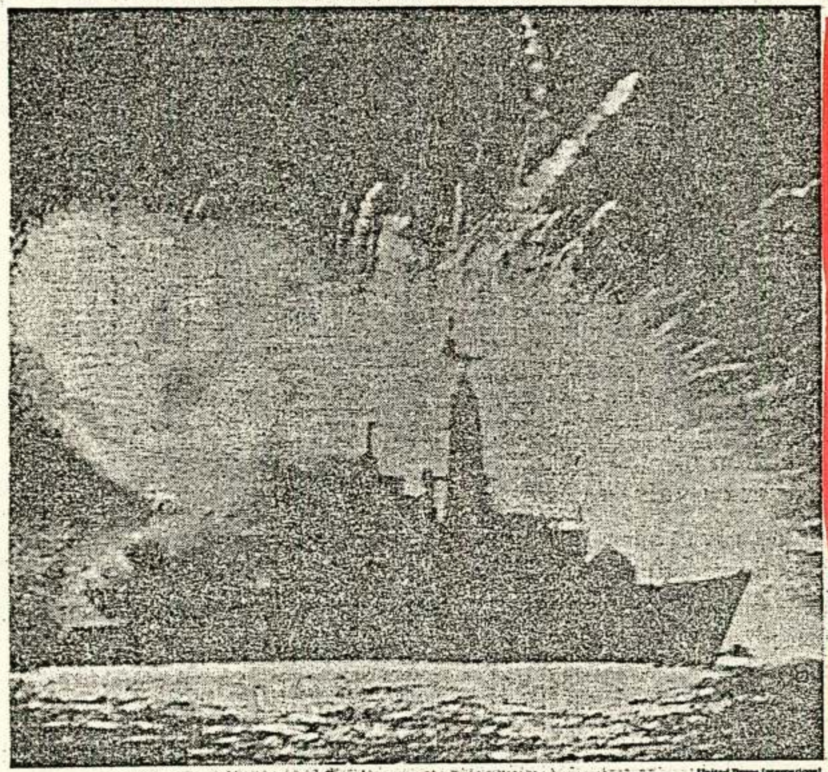
But a frigate was seriously damaged in Friday's bombing raids and another, the Ardent, was set afire after being hit by about 15 missiles from two or three Argentine planes. Sitting alone further south in Falkland Sound shelling the Goose Green area, the Ardent was attacked by several waves of Argentine planes. All but 22 of the estimated 190 crewmen of the Ardent were rescued before the ship sank late Friday or early Saturday, British officials said.

Scorpion light tanks, which landed with the invasion force, were used to push inland and defend the beachhead Friday, and Harriers raided an airstrip just west of Stanley, destroying two Argentine troop-carrying helicopters. One of the Harriers was lost, apparently shot down.

New York Times

Weather: Sunny and warm today; fair and cool tonight. Increasing cloudiness with chance of showers late tomorrow. Temperatures: today 75-80, tonight 55-60; yesterday 55-74. Details, page A24.

—NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1982— 30 CENTS



United Press International

The British frigate Antelope is shown exploding Monday off East Falkland Island in a photo released by the British Defense Ministry. Another British ship, a destroyer, was badly damaged yesterday and appeared to be sinking.

HAIG SAYS BRITISH APPEAR IN POSITION FOR QUICK VICTORY

MAGNANIMITY IS STRESSED

U.S. Reportedly Starts Sending War Matériel to London — Moscow Gets Warning

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 25 — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. asserted today that "the British appear to be in a position to bring the war in the Falklands to an early conclusion" and urged them to be "magnanimous in victory."

A senior Administration official said that by "magnanimous" Mr. Haig meant to convey to the Congressmen to whom he spoke that he hoped Britain would not humiliate Argentina, making negotiations impossible. But the official said it was hard to tell whether the British could be persuaded to follow that course.

The United States wants Britain to be generous, the official suggested, to begin repairing the strains between the United States and its Latin American neighbors that were caused by President Reagan's decision to support Britain in the war.

U.S. Sends Missiles to British

As part of that support, Administration officials said today, the United States has begun to supply the British with missiles, ammunition and other war matériel to replace what it has used so it can be ready for a long sea and air war.

Argentine leaders, expressing displeasure with the United States for Washington's siding with Britain in the conflict, suggested Monday that they might seek outside help against the British. Those remarks were widely interpreted as an allusion to the Soviet Union, and today a senior spokesman for the Defense Department warned the Soviet Union not to interfere in the Falkland affair.

Analysts in the department, meanwhile, said that unidentified foreign governments had offered to sell Argentina French-made Exocet missiles for $1 million each, compared with the original cost of $200,000 each. An Exocet sea-skimming missile fired from an Argentine fighter crippled the British destroyer Sheffield three weeks ago, and Argentina has been trying to buy more on the international arms market ever since.

Mr. Haig's assessment of the military situation in the Falklands came at a meeting President Reagan had for Republican leaders of Congress and was relayed to reporters by the House minority leader, Representative Robert H. Michel of Illinois.

The spokesman for the State Depart-

Continued on Page A15, Column 1

British Say Warship Is Badly Hurt; Report 3 Enemy Planes Downed

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 25 — Argentine fighter-bombers launched a new attack against British ships off the Falkland Islands today and severely damaged a sister ship of the sunken destroyer Sheffield, British officials reported tonight. The destroyer appeared to be sinking, and a full-scale rescue operation was under way.

Striking on the anniversary of Argentine independence, Mirage and Skyhawk jets bombed warships in Falkland Sound that were protecting the five-day-old British beachhead on East Falkland Island. In a series of violent battles, three Skyhawk jets were brought down by missiles, the Defense Ministry said.

But a number of Argentine warplanes burst through the protective screen and hit the destroyer, a 4,100-ton vessel that normally carries a crew of 280. It appeared certain that there were casualties. Military sources said that another ship had been damaged, probably not so seriously.

"In the last hour or two there has been quite a significant and major attack on our ships," Defense Minister John Nott said on a late-night television program. "One of our ships has been badly damaged and is in difficulty. Clearly what we know at the moment is bad news."

Mr. Nott did not identify the vessel. Besides the Sheffield, the original British task force included two Type 42 guided-missile destroyers, as the Sheffield-class ships are known. They were the Glasgow and the Coventry.

British antiaircraft defenses were more successful in beating off the early waves of attackers. One Skyhawk, the ministry said, was shot down north of West Falkland, and two were downed over Falkland Sound. One of the Argentine pilots ejected, according to ministry officials, and was picked up by a British vessel. The pilot, who had an injured leg, was the first prisoner taken in the battle for air supremacy.

Stanley Airstrip Bombed

Later, the ministry reported, Harrier jump-jets bombed the airstrip and other targets at Stanley, the islands' capital. A spokesman denied Argentine claims that two Harriers had been lost in the raid, although he conceded that enemy batteries had fired at them.

In four concerted raids since the invasion, the Argentine Air Force has lost 31 of its jet strike aircraft, by London's count. Brian Hanrahan of the BBC reported that some of pilots taking part in

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ARGENTINA CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Costa Méndez, at U.N., Says Talks Must Be Open-Ended

By BERNARD D. NOSSITER

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 25 — Argentina repeatedly called today for a negotiated peace over the Falkland Islands with the help of Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

In language seemingly designed to please London, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Nicanor Costa Méndez said

Excerpts from speeches, page A16.

the negotiations must be open-ended, with no conditions fixed in advance. And Mr. Costa Méndez avoided mention of a cease-fire, speaking instead of a "cessation of hostilities."

London has previously accused Buenos Aires of attempting to prejudge the outcome of any talks to settle the islands' fate. Now, with its invasion under way, Britain prefers the less precise language referring to an end to hostilities rather than a cease-fire.

As the Security Council ended its fifth day of debate, Sir Anthony Parsons, the British delegate to the United Nations, told Mr. Costa Méndez that he could gain peace by removing the cause of the war, the Argentine troops who invaded the Falklands on April 2. Sir Anthony did not discuss future negotiations and said Britain was fighting "to demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that

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Continuación página anterior –

British Warship Reported Badly Hurt

Continued From Page 1

today's raid had "a kamikaze attitude." Officials in London were disheartened by the continuing punishment received by the British armada.

As British forces in the South Atlantic awaited reinforcements, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared defiantly that she would never accept a cease-fire in the Falklands that left "the paraphernalia of tyranny in place."

Making her first comments in the House of Commons since Royal Marines and paratroopers stormed ashore at San Carlos Bay on Friday, the Prime Minister said once again that there could be no truce until the last Argentine soldier had left the Falklands. And she suggested that Britain would be prepared to invest heavily in "a good deal of reconstruction" in the islands once they had been retaken.

Heavy Fighting Predicted

Mrs. Thatcher told the House that plans had already been discussed for sending Governor Rex Hunt back to Stanley, the Falklands capital. He left after the capture of the islands April 2, and his return is seen by Conservative hard-liners as a symbol of British determination to re-establish both sovereignty and control there.

Heavy fighting had been widely predicted here because of Argentina's Independence Day. Some had speculated that a ground counterattack might be launched against the British enclave, and correspondents at the scene said that paratroop commanders were sure that an Argentine counteroffensive would be coming soon.

One of the reporters, Jeremy Hands of Independent Television News, radioed news of the first sizable enemy probe of the British position, which he said came from the direction of Goose Green, an Argentine garrison 10 miles south. A small force, he said, was repelled by artillery, mortar and small-arms fire without British loss.

Fleet to Be Strengthened

Military sources disclosed, meanwhile, several unannounced moves to strengthen the British task force after its loss of the frigates Ardent and Antelope and to provide more defense against air attack for the 5,000 British troops in the bridgehead on East Falkland.

The sources said that eight more warships would soon be joining the fleet off the Falklands, if they had not already done so. The ships were listed as the 7,100-ton light cruiser Bristol; the 4,100-ton destroyers Southampton and Exeter, sister ships of the Sheffield, which was sunk May 4; the 3,250-ton Type 21 frigates Amazon and Avenger, sister ships of the Ardent and Antelope; and the Leander-class frigates Andromeda, Penelope and Minerva, all 3,000 tons or more.

According to one expert, the Andromeda is armed with the Sea Wolf, Britain's most effective missile system against enemy aircraft.

Even more ships, the sources said, may have been dispatched to the combat zone, including the 4,000-ton destroyer Battleaxe, which also carries Sea Wolfs, and four more frigates of the Leander class.

Damaged Ships Identified

It appears probable that Mrs. Thatcher is prepared to commit more than half of Britain's fleet to the conflict in the South Atlantic.

Other sources disclosed that a battery of Royal Artillery armed with Blowpipe missiles was being transferred from the British Army of the Rhine to the Falklands. The missiles are launched from a light-weight shoulder apparatus.

The Times of London identified three of the British warships damaged since the landings on Friday as the light cruiser Antrim, the Leander-class frigate Argonaut and the destroyer Broadsword. Although the ministry has refused to name the ships, it has acknowledged that the Argonaut and the Antrim have suffered casualties.

If the Broadsword has been put out of commission, that would leave only the Brilliant, pending the arrival of the Battleaxe, to shield the irreplaceable aircraft carriers Invincible and Hermes with Sea Wolfs. It was the lack of such protection that left the Sheffield vulnerable to enemy Exocet missiles.

John Nott, the Defense Minister, confirmed in the House that two support ships were damaged during Monday's raids. But he denied what he termed "the latest wild report" from Buenos Aires that the cruise liner Canberra, now in use as a troop carrier and hospital ship, had been hit. Other officials said the vessels were landing craft and that one of them, carrying ammunition, had briefly caught fire.



The New York Times/May 26, 1982

Argentine jets struck British ships in Falkland Sound (1), badly damaging one. Britons in beachhead (2) reportedly repulsed Argentines attempting probe from Goose Green area (3). British planes attacked Stanley (4).

Sheffield's Survivors To Get Strawberries

LONDON, May 25 (AP) — The Royal Air Force flew more than 400 pounds of strawberries, and gallons of cream, to Britain's Ascension Island staging base today for the survivors of the destroyer Sheffield, the first British ship lost in the Falkland Islands conflict with Argentina.

Geoff Rolstone, a Kent fruit farmer, said he decided to donate the strawberries after watching television pictures of the "appalling conditions" in the heavy seas. The state-run Milk Marketing Board has donated the cream.

Twenty sailors were killed when the Sheffield, which had a crew of about 300, was hit by an Argentine Exocet missile May 4. The survivors are stopping on Ascension Island, about 3,500 miles northeast of the Falklands, en route to Britain. They are scheduled to arrive there Thursday.

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The Situation in the Falklands

FIGHTING

- Argentine warplanes staged another attack against the British naval force in the Falklands, and the British Defense Ministry acknowledged that a sister ship of the sunken destroyer Sheffield had been badly damaged and apparently was sinking. Britain reported that at least three Argentine planes had been downed. There was also word from London that the fleet was being reinforced to more than make up for earlier losses. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told the House of Commons that she would never accept a cease-fire until the last Argentine soldier had left the islands.
- Argentine spokesmen said British jets raided Argentine military targets at Stanley, the Falklands' capital. Military sources conceded that the British beachhead on East Falkland had been widened and was being reinforced and said they were bracing for a second landing attempt by the British task force.
- Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. said in Washington that the British were in a position to bring their military expedition to an "early conclusion," but he urged them to be "magnanimous in victory." Other officials reported that the United States had begun to supply Britain with ammunition and other materiél to replace that used so far.
- Viewed from London, the battle of the Falklands is at the moment a trial of strength between the Argentine Air Force and the British fleet, supported by jump-jets and antiaircraft missiles and guns. Argentine troops on the islands have taken little action against the British beachhead and the Argentine Navy remains close to the mainland without attempting to intervene.

DIPLOMACY

- At the United Nations, Argentina called for new negotiations led by Secretary General Javier Peréz de Cuéllar. Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Méndez spoke of a "cessation of hostilities" and open-ended talks without conditions — an apparent attempt to assuage London.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Argentines took the day off to recall May 25, 1810, when the capital's leading citizens met and set the stage for independence from Spain six years later. Members of the junta attended mass, as did many other Argentines, for prayer and patriotic exhortation.
- London scored a victory when seven of its nine partners in the European Community extended sanctions against Argentina indefinitely. But there was an economic and political price to pay, and that is likely to lead to a stormy confrontation today in a special Parliamentary debate on the issue.



Residents of Buenos Aires celebrating national Independence Day yesterday at the Plaza de Mayo.

A Ship's Loss Is Witnessed At Beachhead

LONDON, May 24 — Brian Hanrahan, a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation, watched the frigate Antelope sink on Monday. Here is his report, which was passed by military censors:

Antelope went the way of the two other British ships lost so far, destroyed in a fire started by enemy action. She was hit on Sunday afternoon when the Argentine Air Force resumed its raids on San Carlos Bay. Although only a few planes broke through the defensive screen, Antelope was badly damaged.

She came slowly up the bay, making smoke, a main mast bent over at an angle. There were holes along her sides as she dropped anchor about half a mile away from us.

About an hour after dark, there was an explosion aboard. A fire started amidships and spread swiftly from the waterline to the deck.

Smoke and steam sent a gray cloud drifting over the water, and through it the searchlights of helicopters probed for survivors.

Figures Silhouetted by Flames

Landing craft came alongside to lift off the crew and to transfer them to other ships nearby. We could just see the figures crossing the deck, silhouetted by flames.

Other ships and more helicopters quartered the sea around about in case anyone was in the cold waters. It was a courageous and orderly rescue amidst the ever-present danger of further explosions.

After everyone had been got clear, there were further explosions.

They sent sparks and flames high into the air as the ship burned, white-hot, through the night. On the deck near me, as I imagine on others in the anchorage, small knots of men looked on in horror as the ship died.

At dawn, it was still glowing red, the side ripped open, everything above deck level reduced to mangled black metal. Then, on Monday afternoon, Antelope broke her back and, as the sea rushed in, a white cloud erupted. The hot metal was finally cooled.

The bow and stern rose from the surface and then slowly sank.

Airline Pickets Restricted

MINNEAPOLIS, May 25 (AP) — A judge ordered today that no more than 29 people walk picket lines near the headquarters of Northwest Airlines, which was struck by the International Association of Machinists Friday. The judge said he was issuing the order to avoid more violence.

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British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (above); British commandos raise the Union Jack on the Falklands as island children look on; Argentine President Leopoldo Galtieri (left) and Adm. Jorge Isaac Anaya, the navy commander at Navy Day mass last week.

Small, Savage Falklands War Holds Major Lessons

By DREW MIDDLETON

LONDON

PRIMARY principles of modern war on which vast modern military establishments are based are under test in the battle raging on, above and around the Falkland Islands. The outcome of this small, savage war between Britain and Argentina can answer some of the rude questions that trouble the mystique of sea power and perhaps much more.

The Royal Navy has exercised its power traditionally, projecting strength 8,000 miles from home bases to enforce a blockade and support an invasion. The operation differs little in concept, but much in strength, from the amphibious campaigns waged by Adm. Chester Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur four decades ago in the Pacific. The essential difference lies in the introduction of radar-controlled missiles and torpedoes. These Exocets, Stingrays, Rolands and Rapiers are the highly sophisticated descendants of the "smart bombs" first used in Vietnam and the second generation of missiles employed in the Arab-Israeli war of 1973.

Falklands struggle: reports from three capitals

2

The question they pose is simple: Can modern warships armed with defensive missiles survive mass attack by submarines, aircraft and surface ships armed with offensive missiles? And almost as important, can British ground forces equipped with surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles for use against enemy aircraft and tanks overcome numerical inferiority to defeat a larger force?

Beyond the iron clamor of the fighting, another military theory is being tested. The British forces, are volunteer professionals. Will high standards of training, coupled with dearly bought tradition, enable them to outfight Argentina's forces, which are largely made up of conscripts? Sixty-nine percent of its army and about half the navy and air force are draftees. This is a test of great importance to Britain, America and Canada, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization powers that rely entirely on volunteers.

Britain's classic use of sea power to blockade the Falkland Islands cost the navy one ship, the destroyer Sheffield. Support of the landings last week, with destroyers and frigates moving inshore to bring their 4.5 inch guns to bear on Argentine fortifications, cost another ship, the frigate Ardent.

Balanced against these losses was the sheer size of the task force — 20 to 25 warships supported by 46 merchantmen, from the 1,600 ton tug Salvageman to the 67,000 ton Queen Elizabeth II carrying the Fifth Brigade of the British Army. Also on the same side of the balance sheet was the success, despite persistent attacks by Argentine Mirage III's, A-4 Skyhawks and Italian-built Macchis, in landing 2,500 marines and paratroops, light tanks and armored cars, Rapier antiaircraft missiles, a regiment of 105 millimeter guns, a radar unit and signals sections.

From the perspective of military history, the second day of a landing is likely to be as hazardous and more decisive than the first. It is in those 24 hours that defending forces can assemble for a major counterattack supported by air power.

Two factors are likely to be of paramount importance. One is the ability of Argentine planes and ships to operate in the heavy clouds that were expected to envelop the Falklands, after the clear weather prevailing during the landings. Both forces have been trained for operations above and close to the mainland. They must now venture out in appalling weather.

Paradoxically, the Royal Navy and its seamen and airmen are more accustomed to this sort of weather than the Argentines. For 10 years, Britain's share in NATO's naval defense has been concentrated on the North Atlantic, particularly around Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands, where the weather is as bad as anything the Falklands can provide.

A second factor is the resilience of the Argentine forces, particuarly on East Falkland Island. They include the garrison at Port Stanley of about 5,000 men and that at Darwin of roughly 1,100. Neither force intervened effectively on the first day and if they are to have an impact, they must move soon. But, if the British buildup continues, movement on the ground will be met by attacks from Harriers and helicopter gunships and, for any force approaching Port San Carlos from Port Darwin, the terrain at this time of year is watersoaked. "A Marine can march 20 miles in a day," a British officer said, "but the Argentines will be lucky if they can make 10 miles over that ground in one of their armored personnel carriers."

Argentine freedom of action to counterattack is likely to be curtailed if the commanders are convinced that the landing at Port San Carlos is only one of a number and that to leave Darwin or Port Stanley uncovered could invite further British attacks at either or both positions. Finally, the commanders must choose between a counterattack over open ground, inviting air action, and remaining in defensive positions to await British attack.

Argentines Cannot Wait

Argentina's best tactic, in the eyes of NATO officers, lies in unrelenting air attack on the British fleet supporting the ground forces. Some neutral naval officers also believe that "in the worst case" the Argentine navy, which by yestererday had played only a minor role, would sally out of its mainland bases to attack.

This would reproduce the situation that prevailed last month when the navy assembled in three divisions and made for the British fleet. That attack was broken off when the heaviest surface combatant, the cruiser General Belgrano, was sunk by a British submarine. There are circumstances, these sources emphasized, when the Argentine navy, which played a major role in the invasion of the Falklands seven weeks ago, might feel bound by honor and duty to attack.

The air force, however, is best suited to the role of opening a counteroffensive. It was not immediately known whether its French-built Super Etendard fighter-bombers, which carry Exocet missiles, were employed in the early fighting. They may have been kept out of combat and the major attack role given to Mirages and A-4's because the air command wanted to save them for a climactic attack.

The Argentines cannot wait too long. The weather, which was passable on Friday and early Saturday, was closing in. British airmen have noted that Argentine planes, especially the A-4's which have no radar, appear to have navigational difficulty in heavy clouds. Although Buenos Aires has never confirmed them, reports were circulating at NATO headquarters of significant Argentine losses of aircraft due to navigational errors during the last two weeks.

Two days ago, the British were under the pressure of time. Now the burden has shifted to the Argentine forces. To reverse the situation, they must react rapidly and effectively. If they do not, the course of war will favor the British and sea power, although battered, will have survived to fight again.

THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, Thursday, May 27, 1982

SHIPPING

ACL Ship Abandoned Near Falkland Islands

By LISA S. HOWARD
and
BRUCE BARNARD
Journal of Commerce Staff

Although more than 70 merchant ships have been chartered or requisitioned for service in the Falklands conflict, the Atlantic Conveyor is reportedly the first merchant vessel to suffer severe damages.

Atlantic Container Lines-USA had received only sketchy details Wednesday about the fate of crewmembers manning its vessel, the Atlantic Conveyor, which was severely damaged near the Falkland Islands by two missiles fired from Argentine jets.

"We received an announcement from Cunard in London that the Atlantic Conveyor was hit by enemy fire and subsequently abandoned," said a spokesman with ACL's New York City office. Cunard is the owner of the Atlantic Conveyor, a roll-on, roll-off vessel in the Atlantic Container Line consortium.

It was not known if the 18,146-deadweight-ton ship had actually sunk in the South atlantic — nor were details available on the extent of damage to its structure.

Allan Littlehale, the spokesman, said initial reports revealed that one known company crewmember was dead and five were missing, including the vessel's captain, Ian North. Other information put the death toll at four.

A spokesperson at the British Embassy in Washington said approximately 20 people were wounded.

"Our main concern at ACL-USA is for the safety and lives of the crew," Mr. Littlehale said.

Rescue teams saved 170 men from the 18,219-deadweight-ton vessel, which was carrying a crew of 34 civilians as well as British Army, Air Force and Navy personnel.

Both the Atlantic Conveyor and the Atlantic Causeway, another ACL roll-on, roll-off vessel, had been requisitioned by the British government to bring supplies to the South Atlantic. Although more than 70 merchant ships have been chartered or requisitioned for service in the conflict, the Atlantic Conveyor, requisitioned on April 14, is reportedly the first merchant vessel to suffer severe damages.

Additionally, the Queen Elizabeth 2, a Cunard cruise liner, is currently carrying troops to the South Atlantic.

Defense Secretary John Nott told Parliament it would be unwise to give details of what the Atlantic Conveyor was carrying at the time of the casualty.

"It was full of supplies for the task force but it would not be in their interest to give details of what she contained," he said.

However, the Ministry of Defense in London and the British Embassy in Washington disclosed that Harrier jump jets carried by the ship had been unloaded before the attack.

Cunard will be compensated for the loss of the vessel by the Ministry of Defense, a company spokesman said.

At the time she was requisitioned, the Atlantic Conveyor had been in layup in Liverpool, England, after ACL reduced the number of active vessels in the North Atlantic service in February from 10 to eight, as a result of the current cargo slump.

The 18,146-deadweight-ton Causeway was requisitioned by the government in early May. She was replaced in the ACL service by the Atlantic Crown, a 18,511-deadweight-ton, roll-on vessel that had been in layup in Rotterdam.

The company is planning to increase its fleet. Last November it requested bids from shipyards throughout the world for construction of five roll-on, roll-off containerships, Mr. Littlehale said.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Monday, May 24, 1982

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Naval warfare of future — bigger role for bomber

While the Pentagon rethinks its ocean strategy (below), Israeli experts give Britain poor marks for missile defense preparation (bottom), and Falklands war is seen to have worldwide military, political, and economic ramifications (Page 7).

By Brad Knickerbocker
Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

As the heavy loss of ships and aircraft continues in the South Atlantic, sharp questions are being asked about the best way to fight at sea.

The debate no doubt will continue for years, but the short answer is that airplanes inevitably will play a much more prominent role, whether or not the large aircraft carriers survive.

Among many defense experts, there is the growing feeling that heavy, long-range bombers could be used more effectively and efficiently to challenge and defeat enemy fleets. Armed with precision-guided munitions that can be launched from a standoff point more than 100 miles away, even the relatively venerable B-52 could pose a serious threat to the rapidly growing Soviet Navy and add significantly to the "maritime superiority" sought by the Pentagon, it is argued.

According to a recent report by the Congressional Research Service, "Some proposals for the next-generation bomber, the B-1B, have included a much wider range of maritime roles, encompassing virtually all the 'sea control' missions heretofore conducted primarily by the Navy."

Such notions sharpen interservice rivalries, and add to the debate over the administration's plan to build a 600-ship Navy centered on 15 carrier groups and hundreds of top-line fighters and attack aircraft, costing billions of dollars.

But the Pentagon itself is pushing the Air Force to accelerate and broaden its maritime role, and in Congress there is parallel interest in emphasizing this task

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British antimissile defense scores low points in Israel

By Abraham Rabinovich
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Jerusalem

Israeli military experts with extensive experience in sea missile warfare are giving Britain low marks for the way it has met the challenge of missiles in the Falkland Islands conflict.

"They weren't properly prepared for it," says Adm. Benjamin Telem, who commanded the Israeli Navy in the Yom Kippur War of 1973. "It's not true that ships are helpless before missiles. Missiles can be dealt with."

Other experts, such as military analyst Zeev Schiff, say that the British had apparently failed to mount a sufficient airborne warning system against the French-made Exocet missiles used by Argentina.

Writing this week in the daily Haaretz, Mr. Schiff said Britain had inadequate electronic means for throwing the missiles off target and failed to provide at least some of its frontline ships with armament that could down an incoming missile.

[According to British and US military intelligence, only one Exocet missile remains in the Argentine arsenal. But Reuters quoted a British government source

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Naval warfare — bigger role for bomber

for the Air Force as well.

Rep. Mike Synar (D) of Oklahoma has estimated that 24 B-1B bombers, armed with antiship cruise missiles, could provide equivalent firepower to the two new planned carrier battle groups, but at a cost of $5 billion compared with $27 billion for the carriers and their support vessels.

"B-1s based in the United States could reach targets in the Middle East long before an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea was in range to launch its planes," says Representative Synar.

Part of this thinking is in response to how the Soviet Union has shaped its naval aviation forces. US officials expect the Soviet Union to begin building its first relatively big carrier within the next few years.

But the emphasis there has been on large and medium bombers armed with air-to-surface missiles. According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Soviet Navy includes 380 Backfire and Badger bombers.

Another reason for renewed interest in using the Air Force in a maritime role is the relative vulnerability of surface ships, a lesson being painfully learned by the British in the war over the Falkland Islands.

"I'm very comfortable with the kind of navy we've built," Adm. Thomas Hayward, the Chief of Naval Operations, told reporters recently. But in speaking of the future of surface navies, he conceded that "the average good American has a lot of doubt in his mind as a result of the events of the past weeks."

In the current issue of the Proceedings (which is published by the US Naval Institute in Annapolis, Md.), Comdr. John Byron writes: "Operating a submarine against a carrier is too easy; the carrier's ASW [antisubmarine warfare] protection often resembles Swiss cheese. Fleet exercises demonstrate this time and time again."

Commander Byron is a former submarine commander now studying at the National War College.

"Let me be the first to acknowledge that air power can come from either land or sea — and perhaps someday from space," Admiral Hayward said in a speech aboard the nuclear carrier USS Nimitz earlier this year. "But the time when air superiority can be achieved and maintained in vital ocean areas from either land or space is decades away."

"The true 'sitting duck' is the fixed land base, not the mobile, sea-based airfield," argues Admiral Hayward, a naval aviator and former carrier captain.

Navy Secretary John Lehman (himself a reserve naval flight officer) notes that large carriers, protected by F-14 Tomcat fighters, attack submarines, and other ships armed with accurate and long-range antiaircraft missiles, can be adequately protected out to several hundred miles beyond the task force.

Each carrier air wing now includes a squadron of E-2 Hawkeye radar and communications planes which can detect and track enemy ships and planes over 150,000 square miles while directing friendly aircraft to their targets.

"Air superiority," says Admiral Hayward, "is the *sine qua non* for battle area control."

From page 1

British antimissile defense

May 26 as saying Argentina had received, via Peru or Venezuela, a fresh consignment of sea-skimming Exocet missiles. The Defense Ministry declined to comment on the report.

[Military analysts said the French-made Exocet missile, which has destroyed two British ships, could tip the balance in the war because the British fleet has no effective countermeasure to it.

[Only two Argentine attacks with Super Etendard planes and Exocet missiles have been announced. Each was successful; one sank the destroyer HMS Sheffield May 4, the other disabled the support ship Atlantic Conveyor May 25.]

The Israeli Navy was the first in the world to fall victim to missile warfare when the destroyer Eilat was sunk in the Mediterranean. The ship was destroyed several months after the six-day war by Russian-made Styx missiles fired from an Egyptian naval vessel.

Six years later, the Israeli Navy became the first in the world — and thus far the only navy in the world — to successfully fight a missile war when it sank several Syrian and Egyptian craft in missile duels without suffering a single loss.

The Israeli success was based on strategic and tactical concepts of Israel's own devising and involved the use of Israeli-made missiles and electronic warfare systems against Russian-made systems.

Israel began rethinking its naval strategy when the first Russian missile boats were delivered to Egypt in 1962. The Israelis were taken by surprise by the introduction of this powerful weapons system and responded by designing their own Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles and missile boats. The Israeli weapons system was not ready for the 1967 war, but was just ready for operation when the Yom Kippur War broke out in 1973.

On the first night of the war, five Israeli missile boats sank a Syrian torpedo boat with gunfire. Then the Israeli ships picked up incoming Styx missiles on their radars and began electronic countermeasures aimed at throwing the missiles off course. These measures were largely successful, but when missiles managed to home in on ships they were brought down by gunfire.

Two nights later, the Israelis faced the same scenario off the Egyptian coast. The Egyptians fired a salvo of missiles against an Israeli task force at 48,000 meters. It took the Israelis 20 minutes to narrow the gap to 20,000 meters and fire. Three of the four Egyptian missile boats in the action were sunk. There were no Israeli losses. In all, 54 sea-to-sea missiles were fired at Israeli vessels in the war without a single one hitting.

Since then, Israel has devised a new generation both of sea-to- sea missiles and of antimissile electronic devices to face Arab navies, which have advanced Soviet and Western missiles.

War in the Falklands: British May Be Turning Exposed Flank Into Base

Reported Capture of Darwin Region Sets the Stage for Assault on Stanley

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

Military Analysis

LONDON, May 28 — With the reported elimination of any threat from the Argentine garrison in the Darwin-Goose Green sector, Non-British military experts here and at NATO headquarters in Brussels said a major move toward Stanley might now be mounted. They noted that what 48 hours ago was a dangerously exposed flank to any eastward movement had now become a base for an eastward march.

The reported capture of Darwin and Goose Green by British paratroops greatly reduced the Stanley commander's options, the experts said. They said he might be forced by tactical circumstances to detach some of his 5,000 troops, the only strategic reserve, to meet the British advancing from Darwin along the southern crossisland track.

Any British thrust now is likely to be more powerful, since possession of the Goose Green airstrip makes it possible for Harrier jets and attack helicopters to operate from there. Military analysts believe, on the basis of preliminary reports, that the Argentine battalion in the area was so overwhelmed by the naval bombardment that preceded the attack and by the precision of the paratroop assault itself that the defenders had no time to demolish the airstrip.

Threat of Harrier Airstrip

Meanwhile, the deployment of British freighters to support the beachhead is likely to end this weekend, the sources said. It is their understanding that the unloading of heavy equipment will have been completed by Saturday.

When it is, Argentine pilots attacking the beachhead will probably find, one informant said, that the Harrier airstrip there has been completed and that they will face ground-based air opposition as well as the Rapier and Blowpipe antiaircraft missiles of the British force.

The source said that the number of Rapier launchers and missiles is limited and that Britain will have to send more very soon. A Blowpipe unit already is on the move from West Germany to the Falklands.

There are no roads across the island, only two tracks, and military analysts said the Argentine command could scarcely neglect the possibility that the British will launch a second, probably smaller column, along the northern track to Stanley.

Shift to Ground Forces

After a week of spectacular air-sea war, the conflict for the moment has shifted from offensive and defensive missiles to ground forces. There are five main combat units: the second and third battalions of the Parachute Regiment and numbers 40, 42 and 45 Marine Commandos. A parachute battalion totals about 650 men; a commando battalion about 700.

In any move toward Stanley, the infantry will rely heavily on 59 squadron Royal Engineers unless Brig. Julian Thompson, the ground commander, decides to move his forward elements by helicopter. His troops face rugged going that can be eased only by the engineers.

Outcroppings of rock, ditches and peat bogs impede progress. One former marine who knows the terrain estimates that a marching soldier can make better time than a light truck because of the uncertainty of the rough track leading east.

A high proportion of the heavy equipment landed in the beachhead was engineering matériel including portable bridges that can be lowered into place by helicopter.

Air Force Reinforcements

Without benefit of information from British planners, the sources consulted are convinced that the task force commander, Rear Adm. John F. Woodward, must take Stanley and its airfield if he is to avoid a long drawn battle in deteriorating weather conditions.

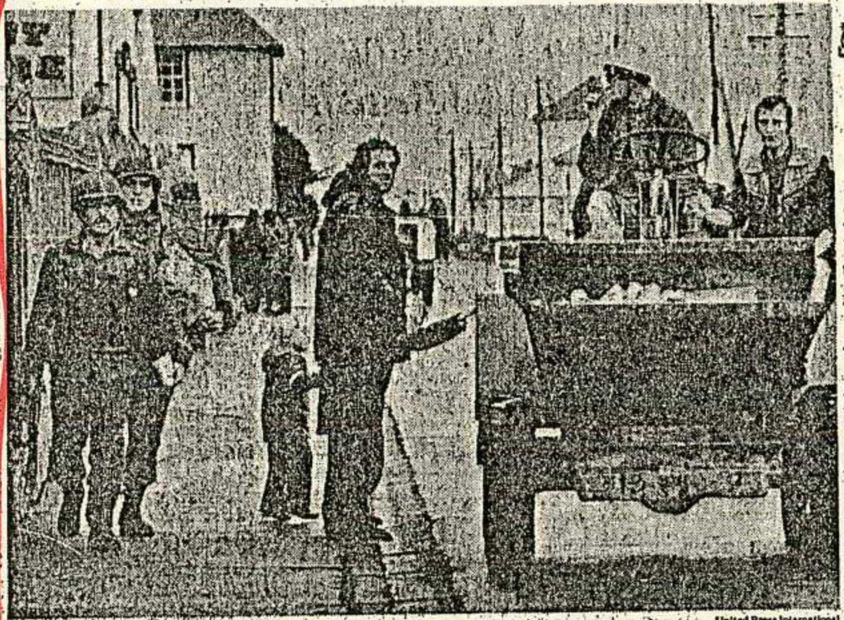
Should the Argentine Government continue the war after the objectives are taken, the sources predicted that the next British move would be to fly Royal Air Force reinforcements to the islands. The aircraft, they said, probably would include American-made F-4 Phantoms and British-built Buccaneer fighter-bombers.

The Harrier, they said, has proved itself in low-level combat. But, they said, an aircraft with the F-4's maneuverability and hitting power at high altitude would be needed if Argentina continued the air war after Stanley and the main airfield were taken.

If the Argentines continued, they said, bombing attacks on mainland bases might be considered. It is understood that such attacks are now explicity forbidden by Cabinet orders to Admiral Woodward.

His position as task force commander is described as one of complete freedom otherwise, a situation that surprises some American observers accustomed to control of an operational force by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The British system differs, as it has since World War II. A task force or theater commander fights his battle as he sees fit. If he fails, he is removed. But his successor is given the same freedom.



United Press International

Argentine soldiers walking past residents of Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands. The Argentine Government, which released the picture yesterday in Buenos Aires, said it was made last week.

Soviet Launches Spacecraft

MOSCOW, May 28 (UPI) — The Soviet Union today launched Cosmos-1370, the latest in its series of space research satellites, according to Tass, the official Soviet press agency. The agency said the spacecraft was circling the globe every 89.2 minutes at an inclination of 64.9 degrees.

Argentine P.O.W. Calls Air Force Casualties High

Ian Bruce of The Glasgow Herald is with the British troops in the Falklands and filed the following pool dispatch, which was cleared by military censors:

PORT SAN CARLOS, Falkland Islands, May 27 — A captured Argentine pilot said today that the Argentine Air Force had taken heavy casualties in its attacks on the British fleet in recent days.

Lieut. Ricardo Lucero, 28 years old, based in Santa Cruz on the Argentine mainland, is being treated for knee injuries after ejecting from his Skyhawk fighter-bomber when it was hit by a Blowpipe missile fired by British troops in the beachhead on San Carlos Bay. He is in the same makeshift ward in a field hospital near the bay as nine injured sailors from the British destroyer Coventry, which was sunk on Tuesday.

He said in an interview at the hospital that half of his squadron did not return from missions over the Falklands in the last six days. Speaking through an interpreter, he said the Argentine military authorities said the missing aircraft from his unit had been redeployed.

Lieutenant Lucero continued:

"I was shot down on my fourth attempt to attack your beachhead. Three previous attempts were aborted when your Harriers intercepted us over the sea. We dropped our weapon loads into the water and turned for home to escape them. We were told to expect the minimum in the way of antiaircraft fire over the beaches."

Pilot Reports Surprise

He said he was immensely surprised on the fourth raid to find all kinds of missile and gunfire rising to meet him when he and three other pilots penetrated to the target.

"My engines failed as I came in at low level to bomb your ships, possibly because of a hit, and I ejected just as a missile impacted with my aircraft," the pilot said. "It was a lucky escape. I came down in the water not knowing what to expect and was surprised that I even survived the low-level ejection without injury. I was picked up by marines and taken to a warship that we were told had already been sunk. Later they took me ashore for medical treatment."

The lieutenant was anxious that his wife and family learn he was still alive, in good health and receiving treatment. He had hoped his wingman would carry the news home, but at the moment of ejection he saw him start to go down, trailing black smoke. Three of the four Skyhawks in his raiding party were shot down.